

THE ELECTRICAL



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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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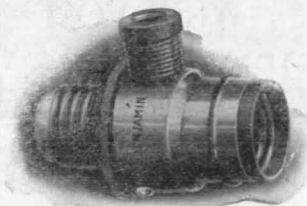
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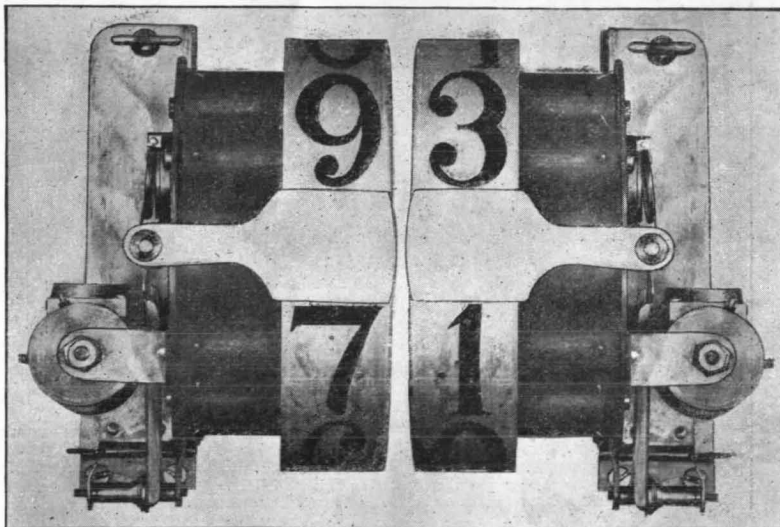
THE SOHM SIGNALLING SYSTEM.

Patents Controlled by the National Electrical Works,
Los Angeles, Calif.

BY L. A. HOSKINS.

THROUGH a system of wiring and the use of a registering instrument of his own invention, A. L. Sohm, a Los Angeles inventor, has succeeded in cutting the cost of installation of electric signaling, fire alarm, call bell and telephone circuits in large office building eighty per cent and has succeeded in accomplishing the hitherto apparently impossi-

description of the Sohm apparatus sounds like the dream of a fanatic. When the average electrician is told that any man has accomplished the task of making calls from 200 stations, each and every one of which is absolutely independent of the other, and that but twenty wires are used to connect the entire 200 stations, he is inclined to look askance at the speaker and to wonder



ble feat of making one wire serve the purpose for which ten wires formerly were employed.

Not only has the Sohm system cut the cost of copper necessary to the installation of fire alarm, burglar alarm, call bell and telephone circuits eighty per cent, but it has also reduced the wall space required for the annunciator from several square feet to a few inches, even for an instrument carrying stations numbering into the thousands.

To the experienced electrician the first

who has been "stuffing" him. This, however, is what Mr. Sohm has accomplished after years of patient study and experiment. Not only has he evolved a system of wiring that is at once original and unique, but he has invented a call-registering device which bids fair to supplant every description of annunciator now in use and this for the very good reason that it is at once more efficient in its working and far more simple in construction.

Instead of a pair of electro-magnets

for each and every indicator, or pointer, Mr. Sohm's invention has but ten magnets which record the digits from 0 to 9, inclusive; in the units column; ten that register the numerals 0 to 9 inclusive, in the tens column; ten more that control the same figures in the hundreds column, and so on. In this way a board with a capacity of 1000 stations would have in its makeup but forty-one magnetic coils, whereas in the present-day type of annunciator more than 2000 electro-magnets are employed.

As with magnets, so it is with wires. For the first ten stations, eleven wires are employed, the same as in existing systems, the odd wire being the common feed wire. Thereafter, for each additional wire, up to ten, ten numbers are added to the capacity of the machine—that is, if twelve wires are used, the capacity of the machine will be thirty stations; if thirteen wires are employed, the capacity of the instrument is forty stations, etc. With each and every wire and above twenty-one, the capacity of the instrument increases at the rate of 100 numbers for each and every wire added, until thirty have been reached, at which point the rate of progression in the additional of stations will be 1,000 numbers or stations for each additional wire.

In this way it will be seen that eleven wires will carry ten stations (one being the electric feed wire); twenty-one wires will carry stations numbering from 0 to 99, or 110 calls (the extra ten calls being obtained by the use of the cypher in the tens column as a prefix, the numbers reading 01, 02, 03, etc.); thirty-one wires will serve for stations from 0 to 999, or 1,009 calls; forty-one wires will connect with stations from 0 to 9,999, or a total of 10,009; fifty-one wires will increase the capacity to 100,000 and sixty-one wires will bring it up to 1,000,009 calls.

These figures are cited merely to show the wonderful capacity of the invention and not to indicate that the machines are made only in series of ten wires each. Instead of that the manufacturers will add one or one hundred wires, to suit the needs of the occasion, ten numbers only being added to the capacity, in the event one extra magnet and one extra wire is employed for small uses where the number of stations falls below 100, and one hundred numbers for each additional wire, where the number of stations in the original machine were in excess of 100.

On the basis of the figures above enumerated, particularly when it is stated that 100,009 separate and distinct calls may be made from 100,009 separate and widely scattered portions of a building, with no greater number of wires than fifty-one, the statements of the inventor seem preposterous. Sifted to actual accomplishment, however, Mr. Sohm not

only has made good on the call bell proposition, but has succeeded in adding telephones, fire alarms, burglar alarms and return calls to his invention, thereby quadrupling the efficiency of his system.

Without diagrams of the circuit, the Sohm system seems complicated in the extreme. Traced out on the blue prints which accompany each machine, the system resolves itself into one of such simplicity that the average electrician marvels that it had not been discovered years before and hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars saved in the wiring of call bell systems in large hotels alone.

Briefly stated, the Sohm system consists of running a given number of trunk lines from which the various call stations are tapped off. The registering instrument, or annunciator, has a rotating dial, a pulling coil, a re-setting coil and ten magnets, one for each of the numerals from 0 to 9. One of the features of the instrument is the pulling coil. This coil pulls the armature three thirty-seconds of an inch only and yet in so doing it causes the rotating dial to make one complete revolution, the total distance traveled being eighteen inches.

Eleven wires are required for the first ten numbers, one being the common battery feed wire. The other ten wires lead through the magnets controlling the unit numerals (0 to 9) and thence through the pulling coil. These connections understood, the operation of the instrument is simple. Button No. 8, for instance, is depressed. Instantly a circuit is completed through magnet No. 8 and the pulling coil. This connection completed, the machine shuts itself and the rotating dial is caused to revolve until the soft iron armature which it carries is brought into the field of No. 8 magnet. There it is attracted and stops the dial, the number (8) showing through the aperture in the covering case.

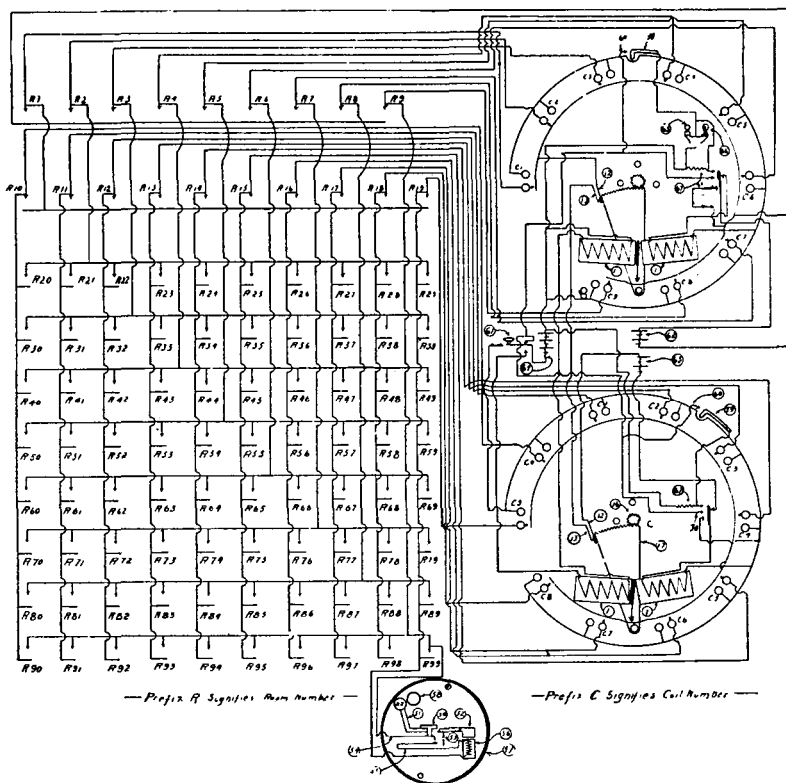
The action of armature which stops the dial locks the machine and breaks the electrical circuit which started the dial in its forward movement. In this way, current is consumed only while the machine actually is in operation. At the instant any given number drops into position, a circuit is established in the buzzer or bell circuit, thereby arresting the attention of the clerk or operator. When the operator answers the call, instead of turning a crank or raising a level, he presses the re-set button. (This button may be placed in any convenient position, it being unnecessary that it be attached to the instrument case in any way). Instantly a circuit is formed through the re-set coil and the dials are restored to their original position.

Should it be desired to increase the number of stations beyond ten, another rotating dial is placed in position beside the first one. Thereafter as many mag-

nets may be added as desired, up to ten, one wire and one magnet increasing the capacity of the machine ten numbers and ten wires and ten magnets enlarging its usefulness by 100 numbers, or 110 calls in all. The wiring in these magnets are the same as in the first ten employed, the difference being that they control numbers in the tens column only. In this way twelve wires will record calls from thirty stations; thirteen wires from forty stations and twenty-one wires from 110 stations. To do this the battery is placed between the units and tens. When it is desired to make a call a single

loose entirely, until the signal has been registered.

Reference to a diagram here is almost necessary to understand the operation of the instrument. The tracing of the electrical circuit, say for call box fourteen, would be thus: Current would pass through No. 4 of the units column, thence to No. 1 wire in the tens column, establishing a connection on the opposite side of the battery. This would magnetize No. 4 coil and the pulling coil in the units dial and at the same instant No. 1 coil and the pulling coil in the tens dial. These coils magnetized, the instruments



impulse of current only is required. At the instant the call button is depressed the machines are in series. As soon as the respective magnets have received current, however, the machines automatically are thrown into multiple and the rotation of the dials continues—and will continue even though all of the wires were completely severed—until the number desired has been recorded. This is one of the strongest points of the instrument. A single pressure upon the call button, no matter how short the duration, will set the receiving apparatus in motion and this motion will continue uninterrupted, no matter whether one button or one hundred are depressed thereafter, or if all are burned or broken

shunt themselves and the pull continues until the two dials have reached their respective position and the current is again broken by the rotating armatures. To prevent one dial from reaching its destination in advance of the other and thereby interrupting the circuit, the battery is tapped off the center, one-half feeding to each of the two dials, or the coils which operate them.

Through this shunting arrangement in his instrument Mr. Sohmer has secured a locking out system that is perfect in its operation. The pressure of another button can not disturb the instrument until the first call is complete. But he has gone a step further. He has so constructed his instrument that, should an-

other guest, in a hotel, say, wish service while another is transmitting a call to the office, the second call will be shown on the receiving instrument, or annunciator as soon as the operator has pressed the re-set button after answering the first guest. If each and every one of 100 numbers were pressed at the same instant, each and every one would be recorded on the receiving apparatus as fast as the operator in charge could operate the re-set button. More than this, he has provided a busy button which is a check against neglect upon the part of a clerk or operator. If at the instant the guest presses his call button to obtain service, another number is shown on the indicator in the office, a busy signal springs into view. As soon as the clerk shall have restored his instrument, the number of the waiting guest is thrown into view upon his instrument and at the same time the busy signal disappears from his call button, thus indicating to him that his number has been received and has been attended to by the operator. Nor has Mr. Sohm neglected the ordinary signal devices at present in use in hotels, the indicating of wants by means of different rings upon a bell. To accomplish this, the guest presses the button once. This records the number of his room. Then, by pressing the same button again, one, two, or three times, as the case may be, a separate bell is caused to ring in the office, notifying the bell-boy that ice water, towels, or what not, are required.

The secret of the whole wiring system—and, incidentally the secret of the eighty per cent saving in the cost of installation—lies in the running of taps off from the trunk lines which connect the ten magnets in each of the columns—units, tens, hundreds or thousands. In this way it is necessary only to run as many trunk lines as there are coils in the receiving instrument or annunciator. Thus, an apparatus with a capacity of 1009 stations contains but thirty number-controlling coils and would require but thirty-one wires from the ground floor or basement to the upper floors of the building, the odd wire being that which supplies electric current to the first ten numbers.

Starting originally to find a means of installing an inter-communicating system which was more simple and less costly than methods now in use, Mr. Sohm has stumbled upon one of the greatest electrical inventions of the age. He has found a telephone system for inside work which bids fair to supplant all other methods, for the reason that with his system, the switchboard room for a 10,000 wire plant would be no greater than that for a present day ten-jack board. As a fire alarm for large buildings he has evolved a system by which every square foot of a building may be

covered and the location of any unusual heat instantly and exactly made known by the running of less than half a hundred wires. With the use of but forty wires and the attaching of only three or four ordinary No. 6 dry cells of battery, 10,009 thermostats, each with an individual number indicating its position to the very inch, may be placed in position and the presence of any degree of heat (depending, of course, upon the adjustment of the thermostat) may be instantly recorded. For hospitals, schools, homes, etc., he has found a means whereby the temperature of each and every room may be reported to the engineer in charge of the furnace in the basement without the necessity of making constant patrols of the house and inspection of the various thermometers. Through the use of a double contract thermostat—an instrument which registers heat on one side and cold on the other—the engineer is notified whenever the temperature in a given room rises above or falls below a given range.

As an outside fire alarm, the Sohm system is equally effective and more advantageous inasmuch that instead of waiting for the number to be tapped in by the time-destroying methods now in vogue, the moment the glass in the call box is broken, the number of the box flashes into view and the alarm gong in the firehouse is sounded. Instead of a few scattered boxes, the Sohm system permits of the use of one or one hundred boxes for every block and it is the claim of the inventor that these boxes may be installed at a cost of less than half a dollar instead of from \$100 to \$500 as is now the case.

In building the same system may be used not only for telephone and call bell systems, but also for fire and burglar alarms and this without any change whatever in the wiring scheme. The same number may be made to ring a buzzer for call bell purposes and a huge alarm for fire and burglar signals.

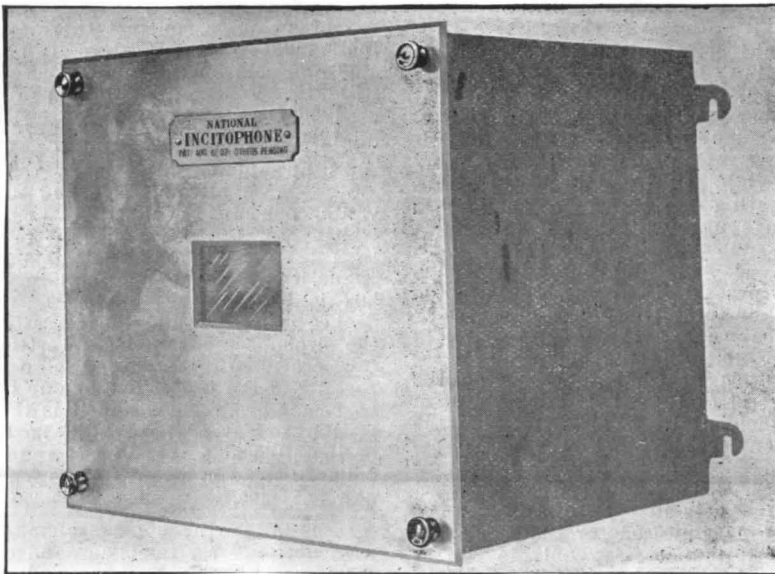
As a burglar alarm the system offers the same advantages as are claimed for it in fire alarm work. A machine carrying thirty wires will protect 1009 openings, such as doors and windows. Every door and window in even the largest buildings—inside and out—may in this way be connected and be made to register in case it is disturbed. A feature of the connecting of the inside doors upon which Mr. Sohm lays great stress is that the progress of the intruder in his efforts to escape after detection is recorded. Not only this, but should a burglar gain entrance through the failure of the alarm on one particular door or window to work (a thing which he admits only as a bare possibility) his progress through the next door would act as a check

against the first and report his presence instantly.

While the chief value of the system is claimed to lie in its adaptability in large hotels, schools, hospitals and office buildings, for all-around fire alarm and call bell purposes, it is available for use in any place where a signaling system is required. In mines it has a distinct advantage over existing apparatus inasmuch as it permits the use of a greater number of stations and is much quicker and more reliable in its operation. It is here, particularly, that the automatic working of the machine is shown to greatest advantage. Should an underground accident occur which should tear all the wires down, the signal neverthe-

of the office were 100 ordinary wood push buttons. Strung across the room, half way to the ceiling, were twenty wires only. On the opposite wall was the original model of the annunciator, or "incitophone," its outer casing removed.

The electricians traced the twenty wires from the push buttons to the terminal rack of the annunciator. They assured themselves that there were no outside connections of any kind. They pushed one button and then another until they had made sure that all were connected with the annunciator and that the claims of the inventor in that regard were correct. And then they went back to their lodge rooms and reported that Mr. Sohм had made good—that he had



less would be recorded, had the miner touched the button even a fraction of a second before the explosion or cave-in which wrecked the wires.

When Mr. Sohм, who was employed as an electrician at the time he made his discovery, told brother electricians of what he had accomplished, he was jeered at. A year later, when he had perfected his model and secured his patents, a Los Angeles newspaper gave the device a write-up in which the claims of the inventor were set forth. So far-reaching and, to them, preposterous seemed the claims of Mr. Sohм that the local union took cognizance of the newspaper article and threatened to expel him from the union. A committee of the most expert of the craft was appointed with instructions to thoroughly investigate the instrument and expose the "fake." In a body the members visited the National Electric works—the firm which had taken the invention—to be shown. On one wall

"shown" them and that every claim he made had been satisfactorily proved.

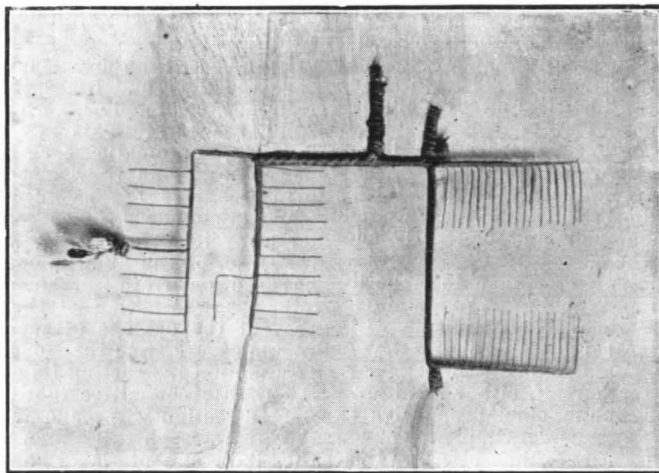
This was but a few months ago. Since that time the firm has been preparing to manufacture the instruments on a large scale and since then the fame of the device has spread throughout the country. Daily inquiries are being received from builders throughout the country who are interested in the saving of eighty per cent in copper wire which the invention holds out to them.

Not content with the success of his work of evolving the wiring system and the recording device, Mr. Sohм set himself to the development of a machine that was practically indestructible. The original model he considered too delicate. He wanted a machine that would stand the test of hard knocks, that could be thrown across the room and then placed upon the wall and be made to work as though it had not been disturbed. Under his supervision half a dozen models, each

more compact and more durable than the other have been built, until now he has an instrument which occupies only half a cubic foot of wall space and may be handled without gloves. In fact one of the instruments has been thrown across a fifty-foot room and then been placed in position, giving no signs whatever of hard usage.

Simplicity is the keynote of the construction of the whole machine. All of the magnets are stationary and securely

lem of employing both poles without loss of magnet lines and thereby obtains the greatest possible pull from them. With a single coil, measuring one and one-eighth inches in length and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, connected to one No. 6 cell of dry battery, he has held in suspension a weight of three and one-half pounds of wrought iron. These are the magnets which control the dial, a ribbed aluminum spiker weighing less than one ounce. The result is that the



anchored. The only moving part is the rotating dial, with its armature, and this is placed in a protected position. No wires are on the outside of the machine and yet every wire is accessible with the removal of one screw. The removal of one screw disengages each set of ten magnets (one side of the machine) and another set may be placed in position without change or adjustment of any kind. Any individual magnet may be taken out with the removal of a single screw and the whole machine may be taken apart by the removal of but three additional screws.

The magnets employed in the annunciator form the basis of a patent in themselves and stand alone as an invention of merit. Instead of the customary method of employing but one pole of the electromagnet, Mr. Sohm has solved the prob-

action of the dial is quick and positive. The pulling and re-setting coils are slightly larger and consequently are even more positive in their operation.

In addition to the foregoing facts the system has been investigated and endorsed by Grand President F. J. McNulty, Grand Vice President M. J. Sullivan, Harry M. Scott, of the Grand Executive Board and the late Organizer of the Pacific Coast, W. E. Kennedy.

Bro. Sohm has requested me to state that any brother applying through the Financial Secretary of his Local Union will receive free a circuit of the system and any information he desires.

M. S. CULVER, P. S. L. W. 116.

L. A. Hoskins is a member of the C. T. U. of A. and Telegraph Editor of the L. A. Examiner.

CHARACTER IS IMMORTAL.

BY THE REV. JOHN CUMMING.

Every man is a missionary, now and forever, for good or for evil, whether he intends and designs it, or not.

He may be a blot, radiating his dark influence outward to the very circumference of society, or he may be a blessing, spreading benedictions over the length and breadth of the world; but a *blank he cannot be*. The seed sown in life springs up in

harvests of blessings or harvests of sorrow.

Whether our influence be great or small, whether it be for good or evil, it lasts, it lives somewhere, within some limit, and is operative wherever it is.

The grave buries the dead dust, but the character walks the world, and distributes itself, as a benediction or a curse, among the families of mankind.

SPEAKER CANNON. LEST WE FORGET.

SON Hon. Joseph G. Cannon has been selected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 60th Congress. Elected by the "unanimous" vote of his party associates, in spite of "Dictator Gompers," as his coterie of beneficiaries have declared. And therefore and thereby jubilation reigns in the House of Cannon. Labor has been given a "slap in the face," for when we say labor, particularly in this instance, we refer not only to the great rank and file of the American Federation of Labor, but also to the membership of the brotherhoods of railway employees. These organizations issued an identical circular on the same date as the one issued by the Executive Council of our Federation reciting the record of Hon. Joseph G. Cannon on legislation for a "Square Deal" for labor and, therefore, the slap in the face is just as ceremoniously and flagrantly administered to them.

Of course, pains were taken to make it appear that the "rebuke" was administered to us personally, but no one will be deceived. All realize that we have never asked a personal favor or personal consideration for ourself, either from Mr. Cannon, other public official or private employer. The consideration we have asked and insisted upon has been for the relief or for justice to the men and women of labor; for the protection of the young and innocent children from greedy and inhuman exploitation. There is not anything in the gift of official, politician, or any institution, other than the labor movement, which, if offered, would be accepted by us personally or officially. Those concerned know this, yet despite this knowledge they endeavor to hoodwink the uninformed of the public that it is the thirst for personal power and not the interest of labor and the general public which prompted and prompts us to expose the subtle and contemptible hostility of Mr. Cannon (and other Cannon's by different names) to any of the reasonable demands which labor makes upon the law-making bodies and upon modern society.

It may not be amiss to say that if the true feeling of a large number of the members of the House was expressed (as it has been expressed frequently to us) the election of Hon. Joseph G. Cannon to the speakership would fall far short of a "unanimous" vote of his party associates. But be this as it may, we deem it our duty to place before our readers part of Mr. Cannon's labor record on measures upon which he has delivered himself, and upon which he has bestowed his distinguished consideration. Here is:

SPEAKER CANNON'S LABOR RECORD.

During the 56th Congress a pretense

was made to secure amendments to the Sherman Anti-Trust Law. The representatives of labor were apprehensive that the purpose of the amendment to that law would be to afford no relief to labor, and therefore suggested an amendment which it had drafted. Labor's amendment came before the House for a vote, and was adopted by a vote of 259 to 9. The conspicuous member of the nine voting against it was Mr. Cannon. (*Daily Congressional Record*, June 2, 1900, page 6994.)

Labor secured the passage of a law to save the lines and limbs of employes on railroads, commonly known as the Safety Appliance Law. This law provided for uniform, automatic car couplers and power brakes on railroad trains. In the 57th Congress the enemies of that humane law made strenuous efforts to fritter away its safeguards by authorizing a reduction of the number of air brakes to be used on trains. The parliamentary situation was such that the only way to prevent the passage of such a provision was to secure from the House the passage of a motion instructing its conferees with the Senate committee to recede from it. Such a motion was made and passed, but the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon voted against the interests of labor and humanity. (*Daily Congressional Record*, February 23, 1903, page 2704.)

All interests of an important character, other than labor, are represented in the government of our country by separate departments, each with its chief executive officer, a secretary, who is a member of the President's cabinet. Labor has, therefore, for years sought the creation of a Department of Labor, with a secretary, who, in the President's cabinet, could represent and speak in the name of the vast interests of labor.

During the 57th Congress a bill was introduced to create a new Department of Commerce and Industries, and to absorb the Department of Labor. If we could not secure a separate Department of Labor organized labor was opposed to the Department of Labor being made a subordinate bureau in the then proposed new department, and we asked that the Department of Labor be left free and independent, until such time as Congress might see the wisdom and necessity of making that department executive in character, and that its chief officer should be a member of the President's cabinet. When the bill was under consideration in the House a member, one of labor's friends, moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to report a bill to retain the Department of Labor as a separate and independent department, with a cabinet officer at its head, but the Hon. Joseph G.

Cannon voted against this proposition. (Daily *Congressional Record*, January 17, 1903, page 958.)

In the 58th Congress Mr. Cannon was elected speaker, and made up his committees (before which labor legislation would come) in such a manner as to practically make it impossible for such legislation to be reported or enacted.

Prior to the 59th Congress Mr. Cannon was communicated with and respectfully petitioned that in his appointment of the committees before which labor legislation should come, he might so constitute these committees as that they would give labor legislation a fairer hearing, consideration, and action. These petitions he utterly ignored, and accentuated his hostile attitude by the appointment of members, if possible, still more antagonistic.

During the 59th Congress the committee having in charge the employers' liability bill amended it so as to require the parents of the unmarried employee who was killed to prove their dependency upon him before they could recover damages for his death. Labor's objection to this unfair amendment was made known to Speaker Cannon and an opportunity was asked to correct it, when the bill was up for consideration in the House. Speaker Cannon declined to grant this request; aye, before he would agree to recognize the member of the House having the bill in charge for the purpose of moving its passage, he exacted a promise from him that he would not offer an amendment to correct the defect referred to, and by reason of the critical parliamentary situation thus created by the speaker, we were compelled to permit the bill to go through the House with the objectionable provision retained.

Labor and other reform forces have for years endeavored to secure the passage by Congress of a law restricting immigration. Immense numbers—more than a million and a quarter—now come to our country within a year. One of the effectual means to secure this was an educational test, and this was incorporated in the bill before the 59th Congress, the U. S. Senate having adopted it in a bill which passed that body. It was clear that a majority of the members of the House of Representatives were in favor of this bill, including the educational test, but Speaker Cannon not only used the vast power and influence of his office to defeat it, but he left the exalted position of the speaker, went upon the floor of the House, and by force pulled members out of their seats, and by threats and intimidation made enough of them go between the official tellers of the House and vote against the proposition. As a result of his high-handed actions the educational test was defeated and stricken from the bill.

In the 58th Congress the majority of

Speaker Cannon's Committee on Labor adopted a series of resolutions containing inquiries which were incapable of intelligent answers. This course was adopted to avoid a record vote against labor's eight hour bill.

In the 59th Congress Speaker Cannon's Committee on Labor was practically forbidden to report labor's eight hour bill. The committee sought to prolong the hearings to prevent a report on the bill. At one session a peculiar situation was created. There were seven members present; three of the majority party and four of the minority party, and by a vote of four to three the chairman of the committee was instructed to report the eight hour bill to the House with a favorable recommendation that it pass. After the report was made to the House Speaker Cannon positively refused to recognize any member of the House for the purpose of calling up the bill for consideration by the House; and thus, through Speaker Cannon's opposition and manipulation, the bill failed of passage.

In the 57th Congress the House of Representatives passed labor's bill to limit the issuance of injunctions and the prevention of their abuses. In the 58th Congress Speaker Cannon's Judiciary Committee prolonged the hearings in order to prevent reporting the bill. In the 59th Congress Speaker Cannon's Judiciary Committee had hearings upon the subject of the injunction abuse and appointed a subcommittee to investigate a phase of the proposition. The subcommittee in its report cited the very abuses of which labor complains in opposition to labor's contention. The committee printed the subcommittee's report as a House document and refused to print labor's reply exposing the fallacy of the subcommittee's report.

During the 59th Congress, Speaker Cannon used his influence to force through the House, without giving labor an opportunity to be heard, an act repealing the operation of the eight hour law, so far as it applies to alien labor in the construction of the Panama Canal. It was stated in justification that this action applies only to alien laborers, but though this is true in so far as the act itself is concerned, yet the result has been that the men working on the Panama Canal construction, whether Americans or aliens, are working more than eight hours.

Even so far back as in the 46th Congress, on April 21, 1879, a member of the House offered a resolution to enforce the eight hour law. On May 7, 1879, it was favorably reported to the House. Mr. Cannon opposed the resolution, and in reply to a question whether the proclamation of President Grand did not declare that there should be "no reduction in the wages of workmen on account of

a reduction in the hours of labor," Mr. Cannon said: "I do not now recollect, but it is not material. The fact is, the law as now executed is this: If they work 10 hours they get 10 hours pay, and if they only work eight hours, they get only eight hours' pay. That is the manner in which the law is now being executed, and so far as I am concerned, it will go in that way, proclamation or no proclamation." And on Mr. Cannon's motion, the resolution to enforce the eight hour law was laid on the table.

But Hon. Joseph G. Cannon was not to rest satisfied with his unenviable "unanimous" election, he must needs take advantage of the awful straits in which a number of men and women find themselves to deliver himself of his accumulated spleen, to take another drive at labor over the head of "Dictator Gompers."

A committee of plate printers of Washington called upon Speaker Cannon on December 7, 1907, and asked his support of a bill for a new building in which the 1,500 employes, men and women (white and colored), in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving might have the opportunity of performing their work with less likelihood of ill-health and death resulting therefrom, as is the case in the building now occupied by them.

It must be remembered that when Hon. Leslie M. Shaw was Secretary of the Treasury he officially reported to Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives, that the Bureau of Printing and Engraving was the worst sweat-shop existing in private or public employment in the country. The present Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. George B. Cortelyou, fully and officially repeated the indictment of this governmental sweat-shop.

It was the occasion of the plate printers' appeal for a place to work where they would be relieved from the present health and life destroying atmosphere, that Hon. Joseph G. Cannon must needs deliver a lecture to them not to be dictated to by "that man Gompers," etc., etc. Would it be interesting to Hon. Joseph

G. Cannon to know that, recognizing the awful fetid atmosphere in which the men and women in the Bureau were working for the government, that "that man Gompers"; that "Dictator Gompers" advised the committee to call on him (Cannon) and try an appeal to his better nature, that perhaps he might be moved to take some action by which so large a number of hard working, deserving government employes might be saved from having their health impaired and their lives destroyed.

Taking advantage of the straits in which the plate printers' representatives found themselves in their mission of mercy, Hon. Joseph G. Cannon must needs attempt to overawe and humiliate them by attacking one in whom they have confidence and for whom they entertain the highest respect. He could not, however, stifle their protest and their declaration of loyalty to the great cause and movement of organized labor. It might be additionally interesting to Hon. Joseph G. Cannon to know to what a degree his fulmination has "endeared" him to all the men of labor throughout the country, aye, even to the committee of plate printers whom he so outrageously treated.

It is the policy of the trickster politician to pretend that the chosen spokesman of labor has his own personal interests to advance, his own views to exploit, his own power to extend or intrench. It is impossible for the politician of the Cannon stripe to conceive that there are some, yes, a large and constantly growing number of men who, true to a principle, true to a cause, true to their fellows, would scorn to stoop to a dishonest or dishonorable act, or any act but which would redound to the interest and progress of the workers. But how can one expect such a conception of a man's conduct from Hon. Joseph G. Cannon whose arrogance and whose antagonism to labor and the best interests of the people is universal knowledge?

These facts are recorded, "Uncle Joe," lest we forget.—American Federationist.

WAITING.

BY JOHN BURROUGHS (1837—).

Serene, I fold my hands and wait,
Nor care for wind, or tide, or sea;
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,
For, lo! my own shall come to me.
I stay my haste, I make delays,
For what avails this eager pace?
I stand amid the eternal ways,
And what is mine shall know my face.
Asleep, awake, by night or day,
The friends I seek are seeking me;
Nor wind can drive my bark astray, *
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
I wait with joy the coming years;
My heart shall reap where it has sown,
And garner up its fruit of tears.
The waters know their own, and draw
The brook that springs in yonder height;
So flows the good with equal law
Unto the soul of pure delight.
The stars come nightly to the sky;
The tidal wave unto the sea;
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high
Can keep my own away from me.

EDITORIAL.

PETER W. COLLINS.

SINCERITY. Sincerity it is said "is the Soul of Eloquence." A splendid epigram but of mighty poor service. Rather sincerity the Soul of Truth, of real self satisfying honest conviction.

There are many men who feel and appreciate the value of sincerity in their life's work. These men are laying a splendid foundation for permanent character. By being sincere they are honest with themselves and with others; they get results and accomplish things.

Many men deceive themselves with the belief that the veneer of self-consciousness is sincerity; they satisfy themselves by deceiving *themselves*.

These men are failures, for the true ring in word and act is lacking. To be sincere, men must be truthful and to be truthful, men must be sincere.

These attributes are inseparable, absolutely, and *polish* for sincerity or *sham* for truth can never take their place. They are the essentials of character and are as necessary in the making of real men as life itself.

SELF INTEREST. We like to see men take an interest in themselves and the more decided that interest the greater our respect for them. It is a good sign—it helps. It is hardly necessary to say we differentiate between *selfishness* and *self interest*. The latter is the stamina of character and is part of a strong men's makeup; the former is the capital of mean men.

Men who believe in themselves do things, they get results.

We like to see them succeed and they deserve to succeed. They do succeed.

Selfish men may seem to prosper; they may be considered successful, but are they? Are they really succeeding. It may be success from the selfish view point, but it is not real success; it is not the success that real men like to boast of; it's the success of small men and has no claim to the attention of real, active, honorable men.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

The New Year is fairly on its way and the inspiration of greater things for the future is in the hearts of men. When all is considered there is justification in looking to the future for great things; for great things in education, in organization; great things in legislation, in industry; great things among men—progress. A good beginning is made by adopting and *living up to* good resolutions, and tho the effort may seem to be impossible, yet it *can be done* and *you can do it*.

Little things well done make the greater things easier of accomplishment, and the little things are as important as the big things.

Let your aim be high, but don't send your arrow into space. Keep on the road of progress and don't be afraid of making too deep a rut and when another year will have passed and the results are summed up, you can feel that your effort counted in the work that was *complete*.

**OUR
SYMPATHY.**

The sincere sympathy of the I. B. E. W. goes out to the families of Pres. Edward Cohen and Sec. Treas. Driscoll of the Massachusetts State Branch of the A. F. of L.

Pres. Cohen met his death at the hand of a maniac, while waiting by appointment (with Sec. Treas. Driscoll and Vice-Pres. Huddel of the International Steam Engineers) for a conference with Gov. Curtis Guild at the State House on Thursday, December 5. Sec. Treas. Driscoll was seriously wounded, being shot near the left temple, and Vice-Pres. Huddle was slightly injured.

The people of Massachusetts and the country were shocked by the tragedy and deep sympathy is felt for the afflicted families.

President Cohen was of splendid character and a man whose wise counsel aided materially the progress of the Trade Union movement in Massachusetts; able and conservative and held in high esteem by his fellow trade unionists and the people of the State. Having been appointed by Gov. Guild as a member of the Massachusetts Industrial Commission, he gave to the State and its people his best effort.

The memory of Edward Cohen will ever be held in remembrance by the trade union movement.

Dennis D. Driscoll, Sec.-Treas. of the State Branch of the A. F. of L., who was seriously wounded is one of those whole souled conscientious workers who leave their impress on men and events; a tireless worker for the cause of Labor, a champion of the rights of the toilers, ever ready to fight their battles in their struggle for justice.

The Electrical Workers will always hold a warm spot in their hearts for Dennis Driscoll, for it was he who in their early struggles in New England carried their standard and made their success possible.

His brother, Wm. J. Joyce, was the first president of Local 103 of Boston and the service he rendered to the movement in that city does credit to his instructor in trade-unionism.

Martin T. Joyce, another brother, is Sec.-Treas. of District Council No. 2 of the first District and acting Sec.-Treas. of the State Branch of the A. F. of L.

Let us hope and pray that Dennis D. Driscoll will be spared to his family and the Labor Movement for years to come.

PATRIOTISM. The love of power is displayed most forcibly these days in the scramble for public office at the public expense. Patriotism runs riot. Many men are ready to serve their country at a moment's notice—a majority at less.

It seems a pity that so much good talent should be wasted in the struggle to *serve* the people. We fear that from this continual *serving* there will be nothing left.

POSSIBILITIES. Presidential aspirants are as thick as flies around a molasses barrel since the announcement that the present White House occupant refuses to be coerced into accepting another term.

There are light weights and heavy weights among the possibilities both in avoirdupois and mentality. The dark horses have not as yet been groomed but there are several prospective stables anxious to make an entry.

OPINIONS? It is curious how agreeable we can be when our opinions are the same, and what a friendly feeling we have for each other. We treat with small courtesy the opinions of others and if aggravated, make unkind remarks about dummies, dead ones, etc.

But what a change when we do differ? Hammer throwing becomes an art and sharp edged adjectives do constant service in the verbal warfare; innuendo becomes a pastime and Anninias gets a handicap—and a bad beating.

But who's to blame. There must be a scapegoat? Yes, there are a couple of scapegoats; they agree again, worry on—or others—and continue to berate differences of opinion.

FINANCIAL. The real reason why we have poor banking laws in this country today is because our bankers would rather that banking remain an unknown science. Greater personal profit is the result and manipulation made easy.

When we consider that the government loses about \$8,000,000 a year in interest that it ought to get from the National Banks, there are strong grounds on which to base the charge of a leak.

Panics can be made to order but their effectiveness depends on how they are advertised.

The respect of the American people for our Supreme Court will hardly be added to on account of the abuse of the President by Justice Brewer.

We are inclined to the belief that Brewer is playing politics, but a mighty poor brand.

The railroads of the country assist in the progress of the country; the farmer helps its progress and the workers help its progress; but the farmers and the workers are not yelling rule or ruin. They are working and *obeying* the laws.

Oklahoma is a progressive state with a progressive people and all states could learn a lesson from her Constitution. The antiquated Constitutions in many of the states could with profit to the people be patterned after that of Oklahoma.

Currency reform is necessary but it must be disinterested to be of value. We need legislation of the right kind and Congress will do well to forget the Bankers for awhile and give the people a look in.

Centralization in Railroads looks so good to Financiers, we wonder why centralization of control appears such a *bogy*.

Edison may be able to make houses for a thousand dollars a piece but he fails to advise as to making the thousand.

One of the greatest aids to character is making your word as good as your bond.

Profiting by our mistakes is getting returns on the investment.

Half hearted effort is a poor substitute for ambition.

PLAIN TALKS WITH FINANCIAL SECRETARIES.

P. W. C.

GOOD fellowship should never interfere with your duty; if it does; things go wrong and some one gets blamed.

* * *

DON'T expect to do your bookkeeping in your mind and get good results.

* * *

EACH member is entitled to a WORKER: See that he gets one.

* * *

WHEN errors occur in overpayments on remittances sent to the G. O., said overpayment is returned by check.

* * *

THESE checks are sent instead of Money Orders saving cost of orders which would amount to three or four hundred dollars a year.

* * *

IN reinstating members who are in arrears, be sure you forward per capita to pay them up to date.

* * *

TO avoid delay make out list of supplies on separate sheet, information letters do likewise.

* * *

BE sure when returning G. O. checks, that they are properly endorsed.

* * *

ALL supplies are prepaid and packages are marked *prepaid*.

* * *

LETTERS for publication in the WORKER must reach the G. O. on or before the first of the month.

* * *

PER capita reports must be sent monthly and not every two months.

* * *

ADDITIONS to mailing list must come through the L. U. Secretary.

* * *

REPORT initiations on first report giving full name, age and address.

* * *

MAIL your letters the day you write them and save complaints.

* * *

ON death claims, see that all papers accompany claims.

* * *

IF claim is legal, check for same will be sent day claim is received.

THE G. S. has no authority to pay illegal claims.

* * *

SEND your correct list of officers to the G. O.—Now.

* * *

WHEN you issue a traveling card to a member be sure his per capita is paid in the G. O. to the date of expiration of card.

* * *

BY doing this—and it is imperative—you save much trouble for yourself and the member receiving the card.

* * *

ALSO see that card No. 1 is forwarded to the G. O. when traveling card is issued.

* * *

TO complete a record of transfer it is necessary that card No. 2 be forwarded to the G. O. when traveling card is deposited, even though it may be deposited in the L. U. issuing it.

* * *

WE are glad to furnish you with the record of any member and are anxious that each member's record be complete.

* * *

YOU can help us in this, and if your record does not agree with the record at the G. O. kindly take the matter up so that it may be properly adjusted, and mistakes rectified.

* * *

A member's record is his most valuable asset, therefore see to it that is protected.

* * *

THE Constitution requires all Financial Secretaries and Treasurers to be on our blanket bond. The rates are \$4.00 per \$1,000 and proportionate parts on a pro rata basis.

* * *

AS the position is bonded there is no extra charge on account of change of officers.

* * *

WHEN bond is for \$1,000 or over, application must be filled and sent to G. O. When less than \$1,000 name of officers' bonded is all that is necessary.

* * *

IF any member objects to paying in advance show him the error of his way, and keep it up until he sees the light.

ENCOURAGE each member in the payment of his dues in advance. By doing this you protect the member against negligence on his own part; you protect his benefits and you protect the local.

* * *

PER Capita stamps *must* be pasted in member's due book when he pays dues.

* * *

ACCCEPT all suggestions that you believe will be of service, and don't be afraid to ask questions when you want information.

* * *

KEEP your book and papers in a safe place and provide against loss.

* * *

DON'T get into arguments when making out receipts.

* * *

YOU can assist the G. O. greatly by sending us *your* suggestions as to improved methods.

* * *

THE progress of the L. U. to a great extent depends on the efficiency of the F. S. and the manner in which he conducts his office.

* * *

IF he is painstaking the local is the gainer; if he is careless or negligent the local is the loser.

THE Constitution (Sec. 9, Art. 5) calls for a uniform system of book-keeping for all L. U.'s. Can you make any suggestions that will improve the present system?

* * *

THE position of F. S. is not an easy one by any means and the F. S. who does his duty is deserving of commendation.

* * *

THE fact that you have made mistakes should not discourage you, as it is only by continually trying to succeed that success is accomplished.

* * *

IF any brother feels he can fill the position better than you, be patient with him.

* * *

DON'T fail to enclose remittance blank with each remittance to the G. O. and see that it has your signature.

* * *

IF mistakes are made at this end, write and let us know so that corrections can be made.

* * *

DON'T be averse to sending suggestions from fear that our feelings may be hurt. We want the best system. The feelings are unimportant.

* * *

Ask questions and get posted.

CULTURE AND TOIL.

BY WILLIAM WIRT.

The education, moral and intellectual, of every individual must be chiefly *his own work*. How else could it happen that young men who have had precisely the same opportunities should be continually presenting us with such different results and rushing to such opposite destinies? Difference of talent will not solve it—a difference often in favor of the disappointed candidate.

You will see issuing from the walls of the same college two young men, of whom the *one* shall be admitted to be a genius of high order, the *other* scarcely above the point of mediocrity; yet you shall see the genius sinking in obscurity and wretchedness, while you shall observe the mediocre plodding his slow but sure way up the hill of life, and mounting, at length, to eminence and distinction—an ornament to his family, a blessing to his country.

Men *are* the architects of their respective fortunes. It is the fiat of fate, from

which no power of genius can absolve you. If genius be desirable at all, it is only of that great and magnanimous kind which, like the condor of South America, pitches from the summit of Chimborazo, above the clouds, and sustains itself at pleasure in that empyreal region, with an energy rather invigorated than weakened by the effort.

It is this capacity for high and long-continued exertion, this vigorous power of profound and searching investigation, those long reaches of thought, that

"Pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon,

Or dive into the bottom of the deep,
Where fathom-line could never touch
the ground,

And drag up drowned honor by the
locks."

This is the prowess, and these the hardy achievements, which are to enroll your names among the *great men* of the earth.

ANOTHER MEMORY.

BY STUART RED.

JOHN was a six-footer. His physique was magnificent, his courage great and his heart true as steel. He was a pioneer of our movement and one of my early associates in the International Association of Machinists. I don't know where he is today, but I would like to. If he is alive I am confident he still carries a book stamped up to date, for those days it was one of his most cherished possessions.

He was a fighter, and we needed fighters during the early days of our organization when it was considered almost a crime to be a union man. He was not a hobo like my departed friend "Red," but a home guard, when I first met him. Later, his zeal for unionism compelled him to wander, and when last I heard of him he was fighting Uncle Sam's enemies on the water, during the war for the liberation of the bleeding "Pearl of the Antilles."

This information did not surprise me for John was always found on the side of the oppressed, fighting their battles and urging them to struggle for their rights. Dear old chap—we fought side by side in one of our most memorable battles, and to this day I can not understand how we escaped fellowship in a county jail, because we dared stand on our rights as American citizens in the face of an injunction judge's learned opinion.

Those were troublesome days. We had no money and little prestige. But our boys fought like heroes, and even shared their bite when closely pressed by the greatest of all strike-breakers, lack of food. John had a little family, and I can remember how when one of the festive seasons happened along in the middle of the struggle, it grieved him much because he was unable to provide his little ones with the small tokens of love that contribute to the joy of such occasions. But we were fighting the enemy and every cent was needed to succor our forces.

We were fighting one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the middle States and the enemy was giving us a battle royal. Strike-breakers were brought from every part of the country and the shop was filled with such miserable traitors to their class. Nothing daunted, our boys fought on despite restraining orders from courts and many other discouraging features. One evening a barge pulled up in front of the shop with policemen lined up on both sides. It was quitting time and thousands of workers, male and female, were going home from work. The knowledge of the strike, the barge and its attendant policemen attracted attention and thou-

sands of people congregated to see the strike-breakers leave the shop. Our pickets were there too doing their duty manfully and the doughty John was their captain.

The doors of the plant were opened and a female laboring under great excitement, screamed from a window on the other side of the street: "The scabs are coming!" In an instant the crowd surged around the barge, the policemen drew their clubs and prepared to crack skulls, while yells of denunciation came from every quarter. It was one of those occurrences that try men's souls, but John was equal to the occasion. I was nearly torn to pieces by the surging crowd and was driven hither and thither like a derelict on a stormy sea, but he was his six feet of solid manhood gained a commanding position and saved the day.

I can see and hear him yet. Flinging up his powerful arms he shouted: "For God's sake people, keep back. This is a trick of the company. It wants just such trouble. If you want to help us keep back and go away." The crowd heard and understood. A way was opened for the barge and it was driven away with its load of vermin. It was ascertained later that the company had planned to cause a riot, but John called its hand and later with the other lads had the satisfaction of seeing the strike-breakers depart and the company make complete surrender to our association.

Evil days came to John however. He was a splendid workman, but that counted for nothing. He was a staunch and true trades unionist and as I have already said, in those days that was almost a crime. He was refused employment in his home city and was finally forced to engage in other lines of business. Still he remained staunch and fought for our principles.

There were many Johns in our organization in days gone by, and there are many Johns in it today. The days that try men's souls are not yet things of the past; they are with us still and many souls will be tried in the years to come.

The memories of other days are not all pleasant. We faced many storms and encountered many hardships. But after all I question if we would have it otherwise if we had opportunity to enact the old scenes again. The rose of memory has its thorns, but the delicate, lovely petal and the fragrance is still a part of it. The fragrance is all that remains with me of the acts of John. Like most of us there may have been a thorny side to him. I never saw it. He was a stalwart unionist, a first-class machinist and a staunch friend.

The old boys fought many a gallant

battle, but thank God the young lads of our union are not only following in their footsteps, but have outstepped them and have planted our standard on heights that were only visionary in the old days. May they continue to advance, and I trust there is none of the remaining old guard too old to keep pace with the times. The old chaps had many good qualities, but they had bad ones too. Some of them did not like the idea of high dues and yelled disaster every time an advance was made along this line. We have not yet met any disaster from increased dues. On the other hand every addition to our monthly dues has brought an addition in membership.

A few are now murmuring over that assessment of one day's pay a year for three years. Echoes of the past again. How some of the old guard would have fought any such proposition? How often have I heard them declaim at our conventions that such an assessment would drive thousands from the union? We'll see now if they were right. My old friend John was one of the fellows who believed it would not. At one of our conventions, years ago he presented resolu-

tions calling for the very assessment of one day's pay a year for three years. He was jumped on and so was I for I happened to be one of the fellows that believed in the wisdom of such an assessment. A vast majority of the delegates thought we were crazy and did not hesitate to tell us so. More power to the lads of the St. Louis convention who dared pass such resolutions. Future generations of machinists will rise up and call them blessed. We need the money to fight Van Cleve and his \$1,500,000 Employers' Association. As the old boys went down to defeat in the past through the lack of funds, the young and progressive men of our organization will press on to victory in the future with a well filled ammunition chest from which to fill their cartridge pouches at all times.

John planted the seed of this assessment years ago. God bless him for it! The memories of the past grow pleasanter when we see the seed sprout and grow into a sturdy plant. It will blossom soon and the granaries of our beloved organization will be filled later with its fruit. Fight on boys, and "May the memories of the past be pleasant and our future glorious."

TO ORGANIZED LABOR:

BROTHERS—GREETING—We desire to bring to your attention the unfair attitude of the several stove firms in this district against organized labor in general and our organization in particular. On August the 1st of this year the Stove Mounters in this and other districts made demands on the respective firms for whom they were working for a nine-hour day and increases on day and piece prices. In every city where these demands had been made they were granted, excepting in Royersford, Pa., Reading, Pa. and Columbia, Pa., and at these places the manufacturers have combined together and are making every effort to disrupt our organization. On September 9th last, after vainly endeavoring to have the firms meet us and consider these demands, and meeting with the reply that there is nothing to arbitrate, our members struck to enforce the demands. Since then we have used every effort to win. The users of these firms' products are mostly wage earning people, and we believe if the wage earners are informed concerning these firms' conduct towards organized labor these companies would soon realize the necessity of treating its employees with the same consideration that has been accorded us by other stove firms throughout the country.

Following are the names and addresses of these firms:

BUCKWALTER & CO., CONTINENT-

AL STOVE WORKS; FLOYD, WELLS & CO.; GRANDER STOVE CO., all of Royersford, Pa.

MARCH-BROWNBAC & CO., of Pottstown, Pa.

ORR, PAINTER & CO., READING STOVE WORKS; PRIZER-PAINTER STOVE AND HEATER CO., of Reading, Pa.

THE KEELEY STOVE CO., of Columbia, Pa.

We understand a great many stoves made by these firms are sold in your district and you can assist us by making known to your members that the above-named firms are unfair to organized labor and appoint a committee to visit the dealers in your town or city and use your best efforts to stop handling stoves made by these unfair firms.

Trusting that you will aid us by complying with this modest request, and thanking you in advance for your anticipated support, we remain

Respectfully yours in Union,

JAMES DONNELLY,

President Eastern District No. 4,
2001 Elkhart St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Attest:—**GEO. LESSIG, Sec. Treas.,**
219 N. Fourth St., Reading, Pa.

This appeal meets with my heartiest approval. Fraternally yours,

D. W. OTTINGER, General Pres.,
166 Concord Ave., Detroit, Mich.



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Subscription, \$1.00 per Year, in Advance.

As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do the work and recommend or order the material, its value as an advertising medium can be readily appreciated.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JANUARY, 1908.

Advertising rates may be secured by writing to the Editor.

This Journal will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

The first of each month is the closing date; all copy must be in our hands on or before.



Illinois State Journal Co., Springfield.

NOTICES

All men keep away from Pittsburg, Pa., as a strike will be on January 1.

Yours,

J. S. HARKINS,
Asst. Business Agent.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 20, 1907.

To the Officers and members of the I. B.

E. W.—GREETING:

Local Union No. 14 I. B. E. W. of Pittsburg, Pa., has a duly authorized strike on against The Allegheny County Light Co., on account of a proposed reduction in wages amounting to 25 cents per day. Brothers kindly take notice, and stop any linemen you see heading this way, thereby assisting us materially.

Yours fraternally,

J. A. GROVES,

P. D. C. No. 7, First Dist. I. B. E. W.
Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 27, 1907.

To All Organized Labor—GREETING:

We desire to announce that we have reached a satisfactory settlement with the Finch Distilling Company of Pittsburg, Pa., and have requested the A. F. of L. to remove them from the "We Don't Patronize List." You will please take notice and publish this item in your official paper.

Thanking you for assistance rendered in this struggle, and with best wishes for your future success, we remain,

Yours fraternally,

COOPERS INTERNATIONAL UNION,

J. A. CABLE, Int. Sec.-Treas.

Kansas City, Kans., Dec. 5, 1907.

Brothers H. M. Jones, Card No. 170821, Marion Zellaer, Card No. 170827, and J. G. Hensley, Card No. 170807, members of Local No. 511, Jackson, Tenn., were suspended by above Local account non-payment of dues.

FLOYD H. BELEW, President,
F. W. CARR, Finan. Sec'y.

N. W. Bellingham lost his due book somewhere around Bakersfield, Calif. Card No. 48919. Lost about November 20th. Anyone finding same will please send at once to Local Union No. 207 of Stockton, Calif., and oblige.

T. JOHNS,

Recording Secretary.

The E. B. of D. C. 5 of the First District have voted to discontinue the five cent per month P. C. from December, 1907 until our next D. C. Convention.

J. K. PACKARD,
Secretary-Treasurer.

All traveling brothers ought to keep shy of Duluth, as our own members are all walking around trying their best to keep scabs away. The Builders Exchange

declared open shop on all trades one week ago, the situation is critical at present, as the Commercial Club and Real Estate Exchange and citizens alliance are all against the unions, and it no doubt will be a hard fought affair. However, things are about even so far. Hoping you will grant the request, I remain,
Fraternally yours,

H. J. GIBBS.

INFORMATION

Information as to the whereabouts of Mark Walsh would be appreciated by his sister, Miss Elizabeth Walsh, 139 Johnston Ave., Cohoes, N. Y.

If Bro. A. O. Craft and J. A. McConville see this, or anyone knowing their address, please write W. E. Jones, 430 Travis St., Beaumont, Texas.

Should Bro. C. M. Tisher see this, or anyone knowing his whereabouts, tell him to write to Arthur Baun, Box 13, York City, Pa.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of L. R. Gague, a lineman, last heard from he was in Greenwood, Miss., about two years ago, will confer a favor by communicating with me. O. C. Froum, 633 S. Hayne Ave., Chicago, Ill.

If Bro. Joe Collins sees this notice, he will kindly write C. B. Ziegler, East Bank, Kenawanna Co., West Virginia.

If Bro. Tim Linahan should see this please communicate with M. Linahan, General Delivery, Detroit, Mich.

If Bro. Charles Mullheria, late of Local 56, Erie, Pa., will communicate with his brother, he will receive news of importance to him. John Mullheria.

Information as to whereabouts of Wm. F. Fields of Local Union 506 will be appreciated by his wife, Mrs. W. F. Fields, 1416 Vincennes Ave., Chicago Heights, Ill.

If J. D. Foley of Brockton, Mass., sees this notice he will please write to Wm. Cleary, Duryee, Pa., as he is anxious to hear from him.

LOST.

Card No. 26739 of San Francisco Union No. 6. Anyone finding same will kindly return to Sidney W. Tyler, San Francisco, Cal.

Lost card No. 150716 and No. 150718. Finder return to F. J. Greiner, 716 Wade Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

Resolutions of condolence have been adopted by the several Locals on the death of the following members:

James Shea, L. U. 9, Chicago, Ill.
John Newman, L. U. 121, Denver, Colo.
Chas. H. Wilkins, L. U. 42, Utica, N. Y.
A. Coon, L. U. 435, Winnipeg, Man.
Asa R. McInch, L. U. 45, Buffalo, N. Y.
James Morrison, L. U. 3, New York.
W. F. Barr, L. U. 5, Pittsburg, Pa.

THE EVANGEL OF PROGRESS.

BY J. A. EDGERTON.

What heart but quickens to the tread
Of human hosts that march ahead,
By Freedom, Truth, and Justice led,
To reach the better time?
What eye so cold it grows not bright
At view of that supernal light
Which breaks in splendor on the height
Up which the nations climb?

What ear so dull it has not heard
The call of Progress? At the word
What pulse so slow it has not stirred
And leaped with eager hope
To reel the race with high intent
To nobler ends its steps has bent,
Before whose quickening ascent
The gates of promise ope?

More swiftly than since Time began
Goes on the forward march of Man,
The high souls leading in the van
To science, peace and truth.
What heights the Coming Race may view!
What deeds the Coming Race may do!
For even yet the time is new:
The world is in its youth.

Humanity's exalted state
In golden eons that await
Beyond Achievement's open gate
Who even dares to dream?
Who can foretell, when Toil shall cease
To be deprived of her increase,
How earth will seem like heaven, and peace
O'er all will reign supreme?

The highest promise in this age
Is that which shines on Labor's page,
Revealing how her hosts engage
To serve the common good.
To lift the throng and spread the light,
To crush the wrong and teach the right—
For this the toiling ranks unite
In worldwide brotherhood.

The cause that cheers the poor and strives
To bless and brighten lowly lives,
Whatever else on earth survives,
Its labor shall not fail.
In that new age of gladness, when
We shall not seek in things, but men,
For progress and for glory, then
Its efforts shall prevail.

THE DOUBLE CROSS.

BY A VOLUNTEER.

AS an introduction to these few pages which is present to those who contemplate coming to the flowery fields of California for a livelihood, I fully realize it is often an impossibility to obtain accurate and definite facts of conditions on the Pacific coast. But it might be well to briefly state the impelling motive that has chiefly animated and inspired my humble efforts, therefore I shall endeavor in the following paragraphs to give a few interesting facts and other matters relative to work.

Many times during my career in California I have seriously pondered over the most deplorable facts that thousands of aspirants, and scores of them undoubtedly possessing excellent quality, have utterly failed to get employment of any kind. These conditions were not so noticeable at first, for I am struggling to keep my own head above water and have but very little time to become interested in the fate of others, but a year or so ago of this state of affairs has been gradually brought to my attention when I observed with amazement that the entire United States was flooded year after year, with unfailing regularity, with hundreds of thousands of circulars, booklets and magazines, advertising this country in glowing terms, setting forth the golden opportunities and fortune lying at every doorstep and in the remotest spots of the desert awaiting the homeseeker in California. After you have had ample time to become thoroughly intoxicated over reading these alluring advertisements from the land of the golden sunset and begin to dream of the gold nuggets hanging on the trees in the land where the mocking bird sings and the flowers bloom the year around and the balmy air laden with sweet perfume, where the sun shines bright and warm beneath California azure skies, then the railroad companies start like clock work, advertising homeseekers excursions in all parts of the United, on extremely low rates. The farms, little homes are sold, positions given up, anything just to rake and scrape enough to gather to get to California and the future is an assured success, and the homeseekers are poured into California by the hundreds of thousands. As soon as they light the fleeing process commences and they realize their costly mistake, and Oh! how heart sore, with every fiber of their bodies yearning for a sight of the old home, they see the glittering promises recede farther and farther away until they disappear in the misty twilight like the morning dew in the dust and they are so dejected to know they

have acted the part of a young robin, just opened their mouth and gulped the bait down. But it is no use, for the railroads are going to charge them more than twice as much to haul them back as they did to haul them out here and without money they are passed by with a cold and critical eye; and to make matters worse at this unfortunate time, all works are closed down. But fate is often a prime factor in shaping the destinies of human beings in the midst of deepest adversity, but the timely suggestions of the kindly hands that have been blindly leading them on to the doors of success, are cruel ones. But the same influence is just as industrious and persist in setting forth the special merits of California in the Orient and flooding the coast with Japs and all kinds of foreigners who are ready to work for starvation wages. There are 30,000 Japs in and around Los Angeles and still swarming in, and they say we need 50,000 more of these lovely little slant-eyed creatures. They have all the Chinaman vices but none of his virtues, and they are just as active in eluding the laws as they are stealing in across the border. The Fruit Growers Association is clamoring to break down the Chinese exclusion bars. They say they have tried white labor and found it a failure, and want their "Chinks" back. One white man will do more than two pipe-hitters. If the Fruit Growers Trust would pay white labor white man's pay and treat them fairly he would spend his money at home and not in China, then white labor would be a success beyond their wildest dreams. Fruit grown here is just about as cheap in New York City markets, as it is in the California markets. It costs the fruit growers about a dollar a box to ship fruit to New York City, but if I send a box of oranges to a friend one-half the distance it will cost six or seven dollars.

There are thousands of Mexicans (Cholos) here. They did get \$1.25 and \$1.50 per day but they have been reduced to \$1.00 per day. They have to pay one dollar for the job and fifty cents per month hospital fees. They are hired and fired from one to three times a month, but each time they have to pay the \$1.50 fees. There are plenty of Chinamans and an abundance of the dark-skinned sons of Italy, Greeks, Russians, and the Hindoos are working from the north down this way. And "Burr Heads" (Negroes) are coming in flocks like black birds; they have been driven out of the south by cheap Italian labor and led to believe this is an ideal country to colonize in, and it is just as ideal

for land syndicates to skin them in. The unskilled workmen are reduced at once to the level of the Orientals, Hsiatis and Mexicans, and the skilled have to labor under great difficulty and overcome gigantic obstacles in order to keep the wolf from the door. And these same people that have been so active in advertising the whole country are just as active in trying to create strife between union and non-union and between employer and employe, and spervig out their insane hatred upon the unions and meeting every new moon to hug the shadows and perpetuating the scenes of industrial strife, and the railroads shy their castor into the ring and loose sight of everything but the almighty dollar. No wonder they sympathize so heartily with the advertising schemes and the development of California. It is productive of nothing but disturbance and nine-tenths of the people of this state are opposed to this method of pouring hundreds of thousands of homeseekers and hordes of Orientals and Asiatics into this country. But this is a queer state, queer climate, queer laws, with some queer people with queer ways. They are all organizing smile clubs; they seem to be just as fond of hugging delusions as though it was part of their very existence, as the American heiress is of marrying the titled tramp fortune hunter of Europe with his depleted estates. Inspectors is a cure for all evils, the hot-bed politicians has got to have some soft place for his friends to light in. Land syndicates buy up tracts of land, cut it up in lots, lay narrow cement walks and curbs, then it is well improved; but it is a great deal better advertised. They run interurban cars and automobiles and whirl the prospective buyers all over the city and country with the greatest hilarity, trying to mesmerize the victims in order to make it easy to pry them loose from the "long green;" but the purchaser pays dearly

for the entertainment. The lots are advertised at \$75 and up and on easy terms but an investigator generally finds the \$75 lot worthless or a fraction in some remote part of the tract, but it is very valuable for advertising material. These lands sharks are often accused of deceiving the public by selling lots to one another at fabulous prices, and filling rooming houses with star lodgers to catch the unwary. All the feed and fuel firms in one large city got so honest they carry scales on every delivery wagon and put weight tags on all fuel and feed delivered and weight again when the customers demands it (after the law compelled them to). It is imprisonment to beg and the break-beam tourist receives a fierce reception with a chain-gang sentence. To steal a piece of pie is four years in prison, but one street car company will get a franchise and all the other companies run their cars over the track and every time a change is made from one company's car to another a fare is collected; same capitalists own them all. Charitable societies are appealing for aid and fifty per cent of the crimes, suicides, insanity and divorce cases can be traced direct to the alluring advertisements sent all over the country. The jails, asylums and penitentiaries are crowded to overflowing, the officials sweating under the solution of keeping up with prison and asylum facilities for the ever increasing inmates. Plucking (tourist) starts in October and continues four to five months, rents are doubled and living made extremely high, and many a nest is lined with the soft fleece plucked from the tourist home seekers. The trust have got everything gobbled up but the ocean and they are quarreling over that, but you have just as much right to come to California as I had, but I will tell you in plain words so you can understand it, bring all your money and don't take a cramp in your mit when you get here for we need it to develop the country with.

LESSONS IN LABOR LEGISLATION.

BY G. CROYDON MARKS, M. P.

IN speaking of the trend of recent English labor legislation before an audience of business and professional men at the City Club of Chicago recently, Mr. G. Croydon Marks, of the English House of Commons, explained particularly the workmen's compensation act, which in Great Britain now replaces the antiquated fellow-servant doctrine, and provides that employers shall be liable for injuries received by their workmen and likewise for diseases contracted

in the course of employment. Mr. Marks said in part:

"Labor and capital, and the interests in association with labor and capital are not national questions any longer; they are international. The difficulties that we have been through and the troubles that we have tried to meet, you will have to go through, and you have to meet.

"You have to remember, as we have had to remember, and take account of this—that a workman has but one thing

to offer; he has his physical powers, associated with that which belongs to his mind. But if you take away his physical powers, you have taken away his use to the community, you have taken away his capacity for being any good to anybody, and he becomes a charge on the community sooner or later. That has to be recognized in the poor law system of every land, because it is a part of the tenets of every civilized country that no person shall be allowed to starve.

There is no such thing as individual liberty in a civilized community; there cannot be entire liberty in a civilized community, or somebody would suffer. Liberty must be restrained for the good of the average citizen. A man may be impelled by certain motives which would inflict injury upon others unless he were restrained. He may be desirous of doing certain things perfectly lawful in themselves, but not expedient that they should be done in the society in which he lives, and therefore society says that although that which he proposes to do is not a crime, it is not expedient that he should do it, and laws have been passed to prevent him from doing these things.

RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS.

That brings me to the point at once—the responsibility that capital has and the responsibility that employers have for the physical powers of those whom they employ, and those whom they pay for. There are certain risks in everything you put your hand to, but you provide for it. You cannot build a house, fireproof though it may be next door to another man's house, without running the risk that his house may burn yours down, or burn you, or do some injury. You therefore insure against that risk, if you are a wise man. You look upon it as a part of the stock-in-trade expense that you must meet. You cannot cross the street, you cannot take a journey without running the risk that possibly you may be inconvenienced or injured by the act of another, or you may by accident injure yourself; and you provide for that risk by insuring.

We in England have come to this conclusion: That no man can be engaged by another for salary or for wage without the risk of his life being put upon the person that pays the wage. We have come to the conclusion that a man must insure the risk of injury to the physical power of those whom he pays, just as much as he insures the risk of his house burning, or the risk of accident happening to himself.

Now, that is a strong order; that is a big theory, but look at it! If you lose your money as manufacturers you can possibly bide your time and get more. If your man loses his health he has no time to bide; he is done. You can recover,

but he cannot. Therefore the law has said: 'Whoever employs a man for his own profit or advantage, must, if the man is injured while in his employment or in the course of his employment, provide for the man precisely as though he himself were the man.' That is, if a man is injured accidentally or in some way due to the business it does not matter how the injury comes about; it does not matter whether or not it was due to the carelessness of somebody else, provided it was not due to the man's carelessness, and provided it was not his work, the master must pay compensation after the first week.

Now, there is another thing; if a man is killed in the works you can see it. If a man has his fingers cut off it is too painfully apparent. But what about that girl going out of that match factory, her eyes red and a beul tint over the mouth. You know she cannot live long. No, but 'she works at a match factory and takes the risk. Matches cannot be made with phosphorous without the risk.' Cannot you make matches without phosphorous? 'Yes' but it costs more. Lives are cheap; the substitute for phosphorous is dear.' That is all over England today. We have said to the employer: 'If you employ girls or men in any kind of employment that causes injury to health you shall pay just as much as if you injured them by cutting their limbs off or killing them.' The act that commenced in July 17th last says: 'Any person employing another and giving that other a disease during the course of his employment shall be responsible for the consequences of that disease.' That is law.

The right of the men to be represented, the right of the men to join in bodies and to have their unions is recognized as a perfectly lawful right today.

At this point a member of the club asked: 'What is the course of English law with regard to injunctions against striking or the result of striking?' To illustrate, "an injunction was issued a short time ago against the pressmen's union, enjoining them from paying out strike benefits or from even taking a vote upon the question as to whether they would work eight hours instead of nine hours. Is it possible under English law to have such an injunction as that issued?"

Mr. Marks replied: "No, it is not. You cannot get an injunction such as that. You cannot bring an action against a union as such; you can only, as I say, go against the individual. I will give you an illustration. There was a large firm of cabinet-makers and general dealers in London, a large store you would call it. Their cabinet-makers were on strike, and a number of the strikers marched up and down outside this great

shop with what we call sandwich boards on them, in the back and front, hanging over their necks, and on those boards they had 'Don't buy at Wallace's. The men are on strike.' They went against the union to restrain them, but they could not. They went against the men and they got an injunction against the individuals for doing that which amounted to a nuisance outside the premises, but that was the only way they could get them, for creating a nuisance. They could not get an injunction against the union, but they got an injunction against the men because they got a great crowd around them. As they walked up

and down the street the crowd would stop to see what they were doing and the policemen ordered them off, and they said, 'No, we have a perfect right as long as we do not stand in one place, to be here,' and so they walked up and down in front of this establishment, and as I say, great crowds gathered to see them, and this injunction was secured against them, and after this injunction was passed there were no more sandwich boards. The individuals were responsible there and could be reached no matter whether they belonged to a trades union or not."

To all Locals, Greeting:

On December 14th, the Builders' Exchange of this city, backed up by the American Bridge Co. and the National Manufacturers' Association, declared war on the Building Trades' Alliance, forcing out about eighteen hundred men. Since that time the local commercial club, architects, and real estate exchange have joined them in their fight for the open shop.

It is a well known fact throughout the country that work of any kind is a very scarce article. Reports from all points show that men are idle, and easily influenced to take the places of our men that are locked out.

Contractors are taking advantage of this condition, and by misleading advertisements and communications, and promises of good wages under the open shop rule are luring men to this city.

Brothers, remember that we are not making any demands at this time, but simply fighting to hold what we have already fought and won, and it is the duty of each and every one of you to lend all moral support that is within your power. Remember, if we lose it will only be a short time until the VAN CLEAVE and PARRYTES, will advance to your city and try the same thing on you. And as you, one and all, know what the open shop means, it is not worth while for us to try and explain it at this time.

The late financial stringency caused conditions to be very much in their favor. Together with this they have bought up the local newspapers and by inflammatory articles, gained a large percentage of the public sentiment.

We are not in first class financial condition, but will not complain until forced to. We expect this lockout to continue until May 1, 1908. There are about thirty inside wiremen out of employment at this time. The contractors have imported a few Skates to take our places, men, who are so low in principle that the snakes of the earth would turn green at the sight of them.

Now, Brothers, remember there are no fair shops here, and we request you one and all at this time to stay away from this city until you receive notice that this trouble is settled, which will be sent out the day it is settled. We have the approval of the District Council and the Grand Vice President of this District. The American Federation of Labor has a representative here looking after the affairs in general.

Thanking you in advance for all the support that can be shown us, and hoping to be able to help each and every one of you, if conditions of this kind warrant it. With best wishes to the personal success of each of you, and the brotherhood at large, we beg to remain,

Fraternally yours,

S. S. BRADLEY, Chairman,
FRED MCGRATH,
W. R. MCCOLLUM,
W. A. WARNEKA,
Committee.

FRANK FISHER,

P. D. C. No. 7, 2d Dst.

Approved December 27, 1907.

J. P. NOONAN,

G. V. P., 2d Dist.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 28, 1907.

BRASS MOLDERS GROWING.

The officers of the International Brass Molders' Union of North America report that since the establishment of the international in October, 1904, the member-

ship has increased to 10,000. The international has a sick benefit, paying benefits for eight weeks out of each twelve months, and also a death benefit.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

I EARNESTLY recommend the establishment of postal savings banks:

First. In order to encourage among our people economy and thrift.

Second. In order to afford a place of deposit free from any possibility of doubt or suspicion for vast sums of money which might otherwise be hoarded and kept out of circulation through ignorance or lack of confidence.

Wherever it may be, this money has lost its proper functions and the business of the nation not only receives no benefit from it, but even the prosperity of the country suffers and may be eventually destroyed. Money deposited in postal savings banks would be absolutely safe, as the Government would be back of it.

More than seven millions of immigrants landed in this country during the past ten years, and it has been demonstrated that in the aggregate immense sums of money have been hoarded or sent away by these people. In many instances it has been found that, for want of postal savings banks, money orders are being bought, payable to the purchaser, good for one year.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, the Post-Office Department sent to European countries alone in the form of money orders \$72,111,748.94. Of this sum, \$18,986,519.61 went to Italy (representing 459,795 money orders, averaging \$41.29 each); \$16,363,991.66 to Austria-Hungary; \$11,582,028.54 to Great Britain, and \$7,250,853.69 to Russia. This money, while it was accumulating, would naturally have been placed for safety in the postal savings banks. In fact, it has been brought to my attention that money of the immigrants, on account of its possessors being ignorant of our language and suspicious of our private institutions, is being sent home in order that it may be placed in the postal savings banks of their native countries. It is believed that this would not be the case, in many instances, if we had postal savings banks in the United States.

The total amount of deposits in the savings banks of this country is \$3,690,078,945. Of this amount, \$1,394,296,034 is in the State of New York; \$1,229,701,214 is in the New England States, \$694,081,142 being deposited in the State of Massachusetts; \$282,508,956 is in the State of California; \$159,174,012 is in the State of Pennsylvania; \$194,668,858 is in the State of Illinois; \$135,370,436 is in the State of Iowa, and but \$294,359,435 in the rest of the United States.

From these figures it will be seen that 38 per cent is in New York State; 33 per cent is in the New England States, about 19 per cent being in Massachusetts; 7.66 per cent in California; 4 per cent in Penn-

sylvania; 5 per cent in Illinois; nearly 4 per cent in Iowa, and only about 7.93 per cent in all the remaining States.

It has been computed that in the New England States the postoffice averages only about 15 miles from the savings bank, the distance in the Middle States averages 25 miles, in the Southern States 33 miles, and in the States west of the Rockies 55 miles. It is believed that postal savings banks would be a great accommodation and an incentive to the great mass of people who have not the proper facilities near their homes for placing their savings in safe-keeping.

From a study of the system which is working so satisfactorily in Canada it is believed that practically no additional clerk hire is required in the various post-offices, the entries being made by the money-order clerk. That the postal savings bank business can be handled with safety is best attested by the results in Canada, where in thirty-nine years \$465,000,000 have been received and disbursed, with a loss to the government of not more than \$25,000. The total deposits in postal savings banks there at present aggregate \$50,000,000.

It is recommended that the Postmaster-General be given authority to designate all money-order post-offices, and such other post-offices as may be deemed necessary, to receive deposits of money for savings; deposits to be accepted in even dollars, with \$1 as a minimum; postmasters to be required to receipt for such deposits in the pass books of the depositors and to make daily reports thereof to the Postmaster-General, who will acknowledge receipt of the deposits direct to the patrons; money deposited in the postal savings bank not to be liable to demand, seizure, or detention under legal process against the depositor. Withdrawals may be made at any time subject to certain regulations.

On deposits made in postal savings banks a rate of interest of 2 per cent per annum is suggested, the deposits to be limited to \$500 by any one person; any individual in the United States 10 years old or more to be permitted to open an account in his own name and deposit to his credit an amount not in excess of \$500. A child under 10 years of age to have an account opened in his name by a parent or guardian, but withdrawals are not to be made until the child attains the age of 10.

That the money deposited in the postal savings banks may return to the channels of trade, authority is asked to place it in the national banks which are Government depositories in the States where the money is deposited in the postoffices. In consultation with a number of presidents of national banks in various parts of the

country I have been assured that on special deposits of this character from the Post Office Department they would allow a rate of interest of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. As the Post Office Department (Government) is a preferred creditor, it would not demand collateral from the banks in the way of bonds. There would be the safeguard of having the Comptroller of the Currency report regularly on the standing of the banks that are used as depositories, and the double liability of the stockholders of the national banks would be an additional assurance of the security of the deposits. Thus the principal object of the savings banks would be to encourage habits of economy, not only among our own men and women, as well as children of 10 years of age or over, who live in

places remote from any bank, but also to encourage the foreign settler to deposit his earnings in this country, because after he had accumulated a few hundred dollars he would not be content to receive merely 2 per cent interest, but would possibly seek to purchase a home, and the moment he acquired real property here he would become a more conservative citizen, would be actively interested in the affairs of the nation, and at the same time would place himself and his dependents beyond the likelihood of becoming public charges. Should, however, his earnings remain in the postal savings banks the fact that he had an interest in the Government and something at stake would tend to make him a more desirable citizen. — Postmaster General Meyer.

HELP AD HINDRANCE.

BY MARGARET SCOTT HALL.

The smoothest paths of this life have some stumbling blocks providentially scattered along the way. Without hindrance life would cease to be interesting. If they were not interspersed with the beauties and comforts of existence, there would be no contrast and consequently no appreciation of the good things granted us.

When we have traveled far enough on this earthly pilgrimage to realize there is a hidden blessing in every obstacle—a Supreme design for our good—we have reached the high altitude where peace dwells and philosophy is our guide. We have learned to make the best of circumstances and find enough sweetness in the roses to compensate for the occasional pricks of the thorns we know are gathered with them. If we had a smooth path all the way there would be no incentive to effort. Difficulties are essential to progress.

Obtaining results warrants all the struggle of endeavor. The joys of attainment alleviate all the sorrows encountered, and render life sweet and beautiful. The greater the drawbacks to advancement, the stronger the will to overcome. Converting stumbling-blocks into stepping stones and turning difficulties to advantage make a "short cut" to the goal of success.

There are many travelers on the same rugged highway with ourselves, and it is natural to suppose the hill difficulty is as steep for them as for us. All along up the slope the wayworn travelers are plodding; there are many above us on the highway, and many more behind us. The good and great who have made the ascent before us are always ready to encourage any effort worthy of recognition and help those who care to climb. Ap-

proval from such sources acts as an invigorating tonic, stimulating the jaded energies to yet nobler efforts. Rewards of merit in our chosen life work may be likened to fragrant roses gathered on the rugged road to success.

But we get a thorn with every rose. *The self-confessed failures who limp along behind are flinging spiteful pebbles of criticism at the achievements of others.* Such disparagements are thorns in the flesh to those who are striving to do something in life worth while. To labor earnestly and faithfully, concentrating our energies on some chosen line of endeavor, must sooner or later win a proportionate meed of success. Whenever that time comes, while helping hands are stretched down in welcome from the heights above us—for there is always room at the top—*look out for the slings of sarcasm from the rear.* Shafts of spite and envy are aimed as hindrances, but their goal may help to spur the intended victim on to yet more worthy accomplishments.

We may turn hindrances into helps if we handle them tactfully. The bitter with the sweet, the thorns with the roses—and help and hindrances all along the journey of life! Yet, we may rejoice that all is arranged for us by a power that is omnipotent.

Striving to advance, our resources have been taxed to the uttermost, but with the strain has come the increase of strength, and a development of our best powers, so we may still be glad. Life's journey is up grade, and the summit of the delectable mountain is far away, but if we are too weak or too indolent to climb, or, growing faint and weary, fall by the wayside, let us clear the way for those who are struggling on and up. *U*

we may do nothing to help, by all means allow those who are in the struggle to strive without disparagement.

When they succeed, we will think more of ourselves that we did nothing to impede their progress. If we may not help any cause, let us not be a hindrance to the progress of others.

One who sympathizes with the cause of labor is quoted as saying: "*Success is like sunshine—it brings out the rattle-snakes.*"

It is a strange peculiarity of so-called friendship that it cannot tolerate one who rises superior to a common environment. *To climb over all obstacles and, in spite of hindrances, succeed above one's friends is to commit the unpardonable against them.*

If we are failures and know it, let us not be spiteful to those who succeed. If we are not failures, let us not pretend to be, hoping some one will contradict the assertion. It is more commendable to

take an honest pleasure in our own achievements than to belittle our own efforts, fishing for compliments. Even though drones and croakers cry "Egotist," the former course is at least sincere, while the latter is only a thinly veneered hypocrisy.

How much sweeter life becomes for all concerned when we cultivate the loving helpful habit; rather than the spiteful, hindering one. Loving and serving humanity is the first step toward loving and serving God.

Practicing the kindly ministries of brotherhood is true, practical religion in any creed or any country. It is happier to help than hinder. It is kinder to build up, though ever so slowly, than to tear down what another builds.

The pricks of the thorns are a part of the worldly programme, but their wounds are not serious enough to bar us from gathering roses as we journey.

THE ENGINEER'S STORY.

BY HENRI LAVEDAN.

YES, sir, said the old man, shaking his head, "I've been an engineer for twenty years!" We were at the little station at Ancenis on a very sultry afternoon in July. I had lost my train and was wondering how to kill time—the express was not due for three hours—when I saw an old man sitting near the lamp-room.

He was still robust, in spite of his gray hair, and silently smoked a broken pipe. I walked down and sat beside him on the baggage-truck.

From the first words he spoke, I was interested.

He was short, and inclined to be stout. His shoulders were hunched up, his blinking eyelids were shorn of lashes, and his eyes showed the wear and tear of a lifetime's exposure to wind, to soot and smoke, to the heat of summer suns and the cruel cold of winter. His deformed and knotted hands hung from his arms like great tools. The bones in them stood out like hinges. He was past sixty, and his name, Etienne Arras. Now, he lived on his savings, at Ancenis, with one of his daughters, who had made a good marriage.

"You've been an engineer for twenty years," I repeated. "You must have had experiences, accidents—and I don't know what else. That's a long time to have been in the service. Tell me something about it."

He took off his straw hat, plunged his fingers so deeply in his hair that his hand entirely disappeared, and for a few seconds scratched his head, as if to recall some far memories. Then, replacing his

hat, he began, with an air of resignation: "Well, if you want a story, here goes."

II.

"It's one that I don't care much to tell people, because it's not very cheerful, as you will see. But, never mind; I promised to tell you something, and I shall. First of all, do you know what a locomotive really is?"

"It's an ugly iron beast, stubby, bulging, and filled with bolts, shaking the earth at its approach like an elephant, terrifying most people who see it for the first time. Yet it's not bad, and lets itself be led with one's finger, as a young lady at a ball.

"Of course, there are exceptions, as is the case among ladies; and though the most of them are agreeable and very easy to manage, there are some not worth the trouble. For all that, in our trade, whether it's good or bad, we love our engine as a sailor loves his ship. We become as fond of it as of a child, and when it wears out, or gets broken down so we must put it away, well, we are heartbroken.

"The new machine is more of a coquette, full of good-will, and does its best to be popular. But, pshaw, it's not the same old friends! It takes time before we can live well together, all three of us, counting the fireman. One has to warm up to a new love.

"The year I'm telling you about, I was on a skittish engine, quite new, and not very easy to manage. I had been on the Orleans road for ten hard years, on the mail train that runs from Paris to Nantes, a distance of four hundred and twenty-

seven kilometers. My fireman was a big, hard-working, red-headed fellow. He was married to a pretty laundress of Bercey, was very much in love with her, and very jealous. We called him "Carrots," on account of his hair.

"One bitter cold night at the end of November the great wind, into which we plunged with heads bent down, rang in our ears the way the sea sounds when you hold a shell to your ear. We didn't speak any more than we had to, because it was so devilish hard to hear a word. On each side of us the mountain slopes ran black as ink as we galloped along. Flagmen's huts at crossings and random trees were brushed swiftly from sight.

"We were flying so fast along the rails that we hardly felt ourselves move. Yet at intervals a more marked vibration would shake our legs, as if to put them out of joint. The locomotive was kicking and throwing up her back in her mad gallop across the black country.

"We had just passed Tours and were nearing Savonnières, when the fireman said to me sharply:

"'Oo you know, I don't like you?'"

"I looked at him dumfounded. He had a queer light in his eyes, which shone for all the darkness. I didn't know what he was getting at.

"'What's ailing you, Carrots?' I asked.

"He stood up in front of me and shouted into my face:

"'Oh, you know what I mean, all right. You've tried to win Jeanne away from me.'

"Jeanne was his wife, and, as I've told you, he was insanely jealous of her.

"I burst out laughing: 'Me, make love to your wife! You're joking!'"

"And I was telling him the simple truth. I thought his wife a nice woman, but never in my life had I the least wrong idea toward her.

"'No, I'm not joking,' he retorted, getting excited. 'What's more, I've been waiting for a chance to tell you this to your face. I hate a sneak.'

"I braced my shoulders, and said sharply to him:

"'You're a weak-minded fellow; and you don't know what you're talking about. Watch the boiler. That's your business, just now.

"I turned by back on him, and the next instant got a smash of his fist on the nape of my neck. I jumped around, anger boiling in my blood; but, thanks to the training of my trade, which requires cool-headedness, I succeeded in maintaining my self-control.

"'See her, Carrots,' I said to him, and felt my voice trembling, 'you seem to be looking for a fight; and it's a right-down lucky thing for you that we're moving along this way. But don't dare to lay your paws on me again, or by Heaven,

I'll get a twist-hold of your nose, and throw you out of the cab!'"

"I had scarcely got the words out, when he sprang at my face, yelling, against the roar of the train and the belching of the engine:

"'I'm going to kill you!'"

III.

"The fight began.

"The throttle was wide open. We were doing a little better than our schedule speed. The fire was big and blazing high. In a flash of light a station appeared and disappeared. I had the time to see the face of the station-clock and the name of the place written in large letters, 'One fifty-eight. Cinq-Mars.' We plunged again into the darkness.

"He had me gripped tightly in his arms and was trying to hook my leg and throw me out of the cab.

"With one hand, I grabbed the bar for my arm-rest, and with the other one tried to break away without hurting him. All the time, I kept shouting:

"'Let go, d'ye hear? You're crazy, let go!'"

"He seemed not to hear me, and held me still tighter, as if suddenly possessed of a fury that gave him ten times his usual strength. He foamed at the mouth like a beast.

"He kept trying to back me into the corner where the tools were lying, for the purpose of getting hold of the poker or the shovel as a weapon. I defended myself as best I could on the narrow platform. We were both burned each time we slipped over the oil-soaked tin against the boiler.

"I was beginning to feel myself weak-en. He was younger and stronger than I.

"Suddenly, I saw a red light ahead, on the left. The terrible sight froze me to the marrow of my bones.

"Do you understand, sir? It was a signal to stop!

"The track was not clear. And there was Carrots gripping me in his iron arms, so that I could not budge, or move a hand. His hot breath was burning in my ear.

"In a flash, I foresaw a wreck, my train making a great leap over another wreck; passengers hashed up, torn, shattered; human limbs spread on all sides; the cars in splinters; the engine on her side, the boiler burst, and me underneath!

"And I said to myself: 'No. My first duty is to keep safe the lives of my passengers.'

"I braced myself, suddenly bent down and butted my head between his legs. I broke his hold, lifted him, with a last great effort, flung him out into the void, the dark. * * * I did not even hear him fall.

"I threw myself on the throttle, re-

versed it, put on the brakes, and in a few seconds brought my train to a sudden stop, the coaches jolting one another.

"It was time. Ten yards ahead of my pilot, the wreck of a local train lay on the track.

"Good God! That was fifteen years ago; yet, each time I think of it a cold perspiration runs all over me."

"And Carrots?" he said in a melan-

choly tone. "He was killed instantly—back was broken. They held an autopsy, and found he had been suffering with brain fever. They made me stand trial before the court, and they acquitted me, naturally. All the same, I killed a man in my life. I'm sorry even to have brought it all up again today. What's past, is past.

"Here comes your train. Good-night."

TO ALL MEMBERS OF ORGANIZED LABOR, GREETING:

DULUTH, MINN., Dec. 23, 1907.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF ORGANIZED LABOR—
GREETING:

An unexpected dagger from the black hand of the National Association of Manufacturers has converted the heretofore well organized and prosperous city of Duluth into a battle ground for one of the hardest struggles in Labor's history. A "Lockout" instigated by the hirelings of the so-called National Manufacturers Association is now in progress. About 1200 men of the Structural Trades Alliance are involved and 6000 other Unionists may be affected at any moment, as the slogan of the black hand syndicate is "open shop" along the entire line.

The enemy is strongly entrenched. Duluth is the strategic point for the entire Northwest, and the issue of this contest is of tremendous consequence to labor, not only in Minnesota but throughout the United States. The enemy so calculated and has massed his forces accordingly.

Thus far it has been a battle royal with

all our forces standing valiantly by their colors. All the influence of every name and nature the Manufacturers can bring to bear is now arrayed against us, and the struggle has every indication of being the most desperate effort yet made by the National Association of Manufacturers to effect the downfall of labor.

Fellow Unionists remember your hard pressed brothers at Duluth. Give them in addition to your moral support all the financial aid that you can. This battle must be won. See to it that the ranks of the enemy are not augmented by recruits from any locality where you can prevent.

I am here on the ground under direction of President Gompers. The situation is critical enough, but the Unionists of Duluth, for steadfastness of purpose, cannot be excelled in our Nation and that they shall be victorious goes without saying if we stand faithfully by them.

Fraternally yours,

GEO. B. HOWLEY,

President State Federation of Labor.

TO ORGANIZED LABOR:

TO ORGANIZED LABOR—GREETING:

While waiting for a conference with Governor Guild at the State House on Thursday, December 5th, 1907, Edward Cohen, President of the Massachusetts State Branch A. F. of L. was fatally shot, and Dennis D. Driscoll, Secretary-Treasurer of that organization was dangerously wounded by bullets from a revolver wielded by an irresponsible party.

Both these men have devoted their lives to the betterment of humanity and especially to improving the conditions under which the wage earners are compelled to live and work.

Both were workingmen actively engaged in their chosen trades, and both have large families dependent upon them for support.

Shot down without a moments warning, it behooves every wage earner who

is in sympathy with the aims and objects of bettering the conditions of the workers, to come to the assistance of those who have been ruthlessly bereft of the protection of a father's love and care.

The State Branch A. F. of L. and the Boston Central Labor Union have decided to tender a Testimonial for the families of the dead President and injured Secretary-Treasurer.

Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., Bankers, 115 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass., have generously offered to act as Treasurer of the fund. Send all remittances to them and the same will be acknowledged through the press, and by the Secretary of the Committee.

Fraternally yours,

G. HARRY DUNDERDALE, Secretary,

FRANK H. MCCARTHY, Chairman,

Joint Committee.

THE BUILDING SECTION

Soon to be Inaugurated by the American Federation of Labor--It All Happened
In This Way--Committee Work and Legislation That Led Up to Its
Culmination--Expected to Weld Contending Interests
That Will Withstand Onslaught of
Union Busters.

BY W. E. KENNEDY.

To those of our readers who are interested in the formation of the prospective Building Trades Section of the A. F. of L., it will be of interest to learn of the methods pursued to bring it about.

The Building Trades Committee of the A. F. of L. came into existence several years ago, and was created for the purpose of handling all matters pertaining to the building trades organization. Until the Norfolk Convention the scope of action for this committee did not seem to be thoroughly understood, and many matters that should have been handled by this committee were referred to their old friend—the "Adjustment" Committee.

During this convention, however, matters properly belonging to this committee came thick and fast. If anything did get by the watchful eyes of Uncle Sam, and was referred to the "Adjustment" Committee, the "eagle eye" of Jim O'Connell and Tom Lewis, "referred to the Building Trades Committee."

At its first meeting the first resolution coming before it was the following:

"WHEREAS, There is at present affiliated with the A. F. of L. the majority of trades engaged in the building industry; and

"WHEREAS, The present various Building Trades Councils, while effective in localities, can not in their present state solidify thoroughly the Building Trades of the country; and

"WHEREAS, This solidarity among the Building Trades seems at this time especially necessary; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the President of the A. F. of L. does at this convention, appoint a Committee of Seven, composed of men representing Building Trades in this convention; this committee to meet at the headquarters of the A. F. of L. in July, 1908, and there inaugurate plans looking towards the formation of an International Building Trades Section of the A. F. of L.; and, be the President meeting the officers of the S. T. B. T. A., National B. T. C., Col. B. T. Council, as also the representatives of those building trades not now affiliated with the A. F. of L., and the results of this meeting to be submitted to our next convention."

There was considerable discussion as to its merits, the possibility of successfully launching it, but they all agreed, that it was needed, and now and not July was the psychological moment to try it on; but when you consider the fact that on this Building Trades Committee were men representing trades that had been at each "others' throats" for years, and that they were just as anxious to see this formed as were trades that had been getting along in comparative peace and harmony, you will realize what encouragement one must feel as to the success of the new department. This satisfaction expressed by these contending trades, however, does not mean that either of these trades will concede a single inch in their contentions, but it does mean that they are willing to go in together—declare a truce, as it were—long enough to clean up our common enemy, and then present their claims to their fellow building tradesmen, and then allow them to judge as to whether their claims are just or not.

The chairman of the committee, who was President Huber, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, then appointed a subcommittee—President Balhorn, of the Painters; Stemburgh, of the Building Laborers; Mangan, of the Steamfitters; Evans, of the Stonecutters, and the writer, who was secretary of the committee—instructing them to draw up the skeleton of a plan, that the entire committee could work on looking forward to the formation of the new department.

The subcommittee met, and their meeting brought forth the following suggestions, outlining a method that they thought a Section could be formed from agreeable to all trades:

"We recommend that a National Building Trades Section be formed within the A. F. of L., holding a charter from the A. F. of L., to be composed of affiliated building trades, and such other building trades that may be admitted; provided, however, that all trades expelled or suspended from the A. F. of L., shall not retain their affiliation in the Building Trades Section locally or internationally.

"That the Building Trades Section so

formed shall have undisputed jurisdiction over all questions exclusively affecting the building trades, subject, however, to a final appeal to the A. F. of L.

"That local building trades sections attached to central bodies in the various cities shall be formed, and that all matters pertaining to the construction or alterations of buildings shall be referred to this section for adjustment.

"To obtain or retain affiliation with this section, it shall be obligatory on the part of each local building trade to be also affiliated with the A. F. of L.'s local central body.

"The Building Trades Section shall cooperate as far as possible with the central body on all matters pertaining to the best interest of organized labor.

"That no trade agreement shall be presented until officially ratified by the national or international association of that trade; nor shall it become operative until it has been agreed to by at least two-thirds of the affiliated local trades.

"That all trade agreements with employers be provided with a clause 'that nothing in this agreement shall be so construed as to interfere with supporting trades in officially recognized difficulties,' or a similar clause.

"That each member of every local in the section shall pay to his local the sum of 10 cents per month for his working card; 50 per cent of this shall be retained in the treasury of the local building trades section, the other 50 per cent shall be forwarded to the headquarters of the Building Trades Section. Such funds to be used for the legitimate expenses, and the surplus thereof shall be used as a defense fund to be expended under the directions of the officers of the national or international affiliated organizations.

"The cards issued shall be universal in design and phraseology on one side; on the reverse side it shall state the local, city, trade and name of individual to whom issued. All cards shall be issued from headquarters and the design shall be copyrighted to prevent fraud or imitation."

When these suggestions were submitted to the committee it was decided to call a meeting of all the building trades delegates that were represented at the convention, for the committee was composed of but fifteen members, and thought this matter should be submitted to all. This was done and the entire body of building trades delegates (as well as a representative of the Brick Masons, also Plasterers, who were invited), discussed the "skeleton."

There was some doubt expressed as to whether the A. F. of L. could, in accordance with their constitution, charter two central bodies in the same city,

a motion was then made to appoint a Committee of Seven to look into the constitutionality of the matter, and, if necessary, draw up an amendment to the constitution, permitting such a charter.

This Committee of Seven was appointed by President Huber, and was composed of several members of both the Building Trades Committee and delegates to the convention representing building trades.

I have not that part of the minutes before me, hence am unable to state all the names, but among them were President McNulty, of the Electrical Workers; President M. O'Sullivan, of the Sheet Metal Workers, and, I think, President Kirby, of the Structural Trades Alliance.

When this committee was ready to report, another meeting of all the building trades delegates was held, and the committee submitted the following resolutions:

"We, your committee on building trades, find that in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Council relative to conference held between subcommittees representing the Executive Council and the Structural Trades Alliance.

"The committee having given the subject its earnest consideration and believing it to be to the best interest of the labor movement in general that it be under one head.

"We, therefore, recommend to the twenty-seventh annual convention that a Department of Building Trades of the A. F. of L., be created; said department to be chartered by the A. F. of L., to be composed of bona fide national and international building trades organizations, duly chartered as such by the A. F. of L., and to give autonomy over the building trades with authority to issue charters to local building trades sections; said sections and central body to be affiliated to the A. F. of L., to be composed of bona fide local unions and recognized as such in the building trades.

"We further recommend that all local unions of the building trades sections shall be affiliated with central bodies of the A. F. of L."

These resolutions were agreed to by the entire committee as to what should be recommended to the convention.

There was some doubt in the minds of some of our building trades delegates as to the possibilities of such a recommendation being looked upon with favor by the convention, as the granting of a charter to any particular class of trades, with power to issue charters, might have a tendency of segregation, and might be asked for by other branches—for instance, the metal trades, label trades, etc. etc.—but when the matter came before the body, and Vice-

President Duncan advocated and urged its adoption, and, when the President, after making some inquiry of Delegate McNulty, as to its intent, etc., also spoke in favor of it, the "fearsome" ones were 'fearsome' no more, and it passed unanimously, and it is now only a question of a few weeks when this—that will surely prove to be—a magnificent structure will be launched, and when it does get started, when all the building trades in the A. F. of L., and those not yet in the A. F. of L., (for there will no doubt be laws made by which trades not yet affiliated can, too, secure local representation), and this too, all over the country, all standing shoulder to shoulder, can any one doubt as to the results when we are right?

In conclusion, the building trades ought to, and do feel grateful for the great assistance rendered them by the other trades, and especially grateful to Vice-President Duncan, whose great strength and prestige made it possible for many to say, after his speech in its favor, "it's all over but the shouting." President Kirby of the Structural Trades Alliance, too, is deserving of much credit, for it would seem that he,

too, wanted to see a successful Building Trades Section launched, and was several times before the committee advising and consulting with them.

President McNulty, too, worked like a Trojan for its success, and the Building Trades Committee were almost as busy as Jim O'Connell's famous "Adjutant's Committee."

Names and trades represented by committee are: Chairman William Huber, president Brotherhood of Carpenters; Jno. R. Alpine, president Plumbers and Gas Fitters, S. F. and S. F. H.; Joseph C. Balhorn, president B. P. P. H. and D. of A.; Alex Crinkshank, delegate from Granite Cutters; M. O'Sullivan, president A. S. M. W.; Joseph Evans, delegate Soft Stone Cutters; F. M. Ryan, president Structural Iron Workers; H. A. Stemburgh, secretary Building Laborers; Jno. Mangan, Steam Fitters and S. F. H.; Mat Comerford, president Engineers; Frank Feeney, president Elevator Constructors; Benj. Russell, Slate and Tile Roofers; Chas. H. Lepps, Tile Layers; Henry Sands, Composition Damp Proof Workers; Secretary W. E. Kennedy, Electrical Workers.

HE'S THE HAPPIEST.

The Man Who Has a Union Card in His Pocket Has a Happy Heart.

Taken as a whole, the happiest class of men on the face of the earth are those comprising the mighty trade unions scattered broadcast throughout the breadth and length of this vast continent. And this is as it should be. What can be more honorable than earning one's bread by the sweat of one's brow? And what can give more real joy and honest self satisfaction than the knowledge that in earning one's bread one has given a fair day's labor and general satisfaction to the employer?

The trade unionist realizes his own worth, but he seldom overrates himself. He insists on receiving just recompense for his labor and exerts himself, out of respect for himself and his union and a sense of fairness toward his employer, to give forth the best that is in him.

The honest toiler is glad when the working day begins and happy when it is over. In every healthy being it is a desire to do work of some nature, be it mental or manual, and the man who finds his natural bent and follows it can not but be happy. Healthful outdoor employment gives the workman an appe-

tite which cannot be attained by those who toil over a set of books in a dingy, stuffy and oftentimes illy ventilated and poorly lighted office. Hence a toiler who does not welcome meal time is one of the ordinary run of outdoor workman.

The union mechanic knows that he is following his natural bent and can not become proficient unless he likes his chosen form of toil and feels happy while at work.

The union mechanic works but forty-eight hours a week on an average. He doesn't have to wear out body and mind by over-taxing his physical and mental capacities in practically working day and night to make a livelihood as does his non-union brother, and he is therefore in condition at all times to do his best work during the working hours of the week. The knowledge that he is able to do and does do his work in an efficient manner is alone enough to bring happiness and to make him content with himself and the world at large. When a man feels contented and likes himself he generally likes everybody else.—San Bernardino Bulletin.

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

JANKO THE MUSICIAN.

BY HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ.

THE following story, so full of the pathos of human life—its trials and tribulations, is from the pen of that great Polish author-patriot Henry Sienkiewicz.

Sienkiewicz was born in Lithuania in 1845 and from the period of his manhood has given his best efforts for the cause of liberty.—*Editor.*

He came into the world frail and sickly. The women gathered about his bedside shook their heads over the mother and child. The smith's wife, the cleverest of them all, began to comfort the sick woman after her fashion.

"Now, don't excite yourself," she said. "I will light a consecrated candle for you—all's over with you. Make your preparations for the next world. We must send for the priest to confess you."

"Dear, dear!" said another. "And the boy must be baptized immediately. He won't last until the priest comes. I tell you, he'll be lucky if his spirit doesn't haunt this earth an unbaptized ghost." crated candle, took the child and spr

So speaking, the woman lit a consecrated candle, took the child and sprinkled holy water, making its little eyes blink. Then she pronounced the formula:

"I baptize thee in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and give thee the name of John. And now, thou Christian soul, return thither whence thou camest. Amen!"

The Christian soul, however, had not the least desire to return whence it had come and leave the attenuated body. On the contrary, it began to strike out as energetically as it could in the little legs of this body, and to cry, though feebly and dolefully, sa that the sponsors observed that he mewled like a kitten.

The priest was summoned. He came, performed the rites, and took leave. The sick woman recovered, and at the end of a week returned to her work.

The child's life hung by a thread. He seemed scarcely to breathe. But in his fourth year the cuckoo cried over the roof several times during the spring, and he began to improve, reaching his tenth year in passably good condition.

He remained thin and limp. His stomach was puffy, his cheeks sunken, and his shock of flaxen-colored—or, rather, white—hair fell over his clear, staring eyes, which looked into the world as into immeasurable space.

In winter he cowered behind the oven, whimpering from the cold, and not

rarely, also, from hunger. In the summer-time he ran about in a shirt with a cloth belt, his flaxen hair protruding from under a hat of braided straw, his little head stretching upward like a bird's.

His mother, a poverty-stricken tenant, who led a hand-to-mouth existence, like a swallow under a strange roof, loved him, perhaps, in her way, though she beat him rather frequently and usually called him changeling.

When eight years old he was already set to helping the shepherd with the flock; or, if there was nothing at home to eat, he was sent deep into the woods to gather mushrooms. It was a mercy that he was not gobbled up there by a wolf.

He was not a remarkably bright boy. Like a true village urchin, he stuck his finger in his mouth if any one spoke to him. People prophesied that he would not have a long existence, and were even less optimistic in foretelling the joy his mother would experience from him, because he was scarcely fit to do any work.

II.

THERE is no guessing how it happened, but for one thing he had a strong desire—for music. He listened to every tone, and the older he grew the more he thought of sound and song. When in the woods with a flock of sheep, or picking berries with a comrade, he would return without a berry, and lisp:

"Oh, mother, how beautifully the woods player!"

"I'll play something on you, you good-for-nothing!" his mother once cried out angrily, and executed a piece of music upon him with a cooking-spoon.

The boy screamed, and promised not to listen to the playing of the woods any more, though he continued to think all the time of how beautiful it sounded among the trees.

Who or what was singing there? Did he know? The fir-trees, the beeches, the birches, everything murmured and sang—the whole woods. There was the echo, too.

In the fields the blades of grass sang, in the little garden behind the hut the sparrows fairly shook the cherry-trees with their chirping. At evening he heard all the voices one can possibly hear in the country, and he fancied the whole village was making music.

When set to work at tossing manure, he thought he heard the wind playing in the pitchfork; and if the superintendent saw him standing there idle, his hair

thrown back, listening to the music in the prongs, he would grasp his strap and deal the little fellow several lashes as a memento. But what was the use?

The people called him Janko, the Musician.

In the spring he slipped away and cut a fife for himself. At night, when the frogs croaked, the quails uttered their call on the meadows, the bitterns boomed in the dew, and the roosters crowed behind the hedges, he could not sleep, but listened and listened. God alone knows into what tones he transmitted these sounds.

His mother did not dare take him to church, because when the organ sent forth a peal, or rolled in a soft strain, the child's eyes grew misty or else beamed with a light that seemed to be the reflection from another world.

The watchman who walked about the village at night and counted the stars to keep from falling asleep, or carried on conversations with the dogs, more than once saw the little white shirt of Janko as he sped to the tavern in the dusk. The boy never went inside, but crouched against the wall, listening.

Within, the couples turned about in a merry dance, and many a joyous shout resounded from some young fellow's throat. Janko could hear the thud of the feet and the simpering voices of the girls. The violins softly sang:

We want to eat, we want to drink,

We want to make the glasses clink.

And the bass-viol gravely grumbled an accompaniment:

As God wills! As God wills!

The windows gleamed in the bright light, every board in the room seemed to quiver, to sing, and to play. And Janko listened. What wouldn't he have given to possess a violin which softly played

We want to eat, we want to drink,

We want to make the glasses clink.

Pieces of wood that played! Where could he get one—where were they made? If they would only permit him to take one in his hand!

Audacious thought! He might merely listen. So he continued to stretch his ears until the voice of the night-watch rang out back of him in the dark:

"Off home with you, you little imp!"

Then the tiny, barefooted figure would scamper back to the hut, pursued in the gloom by the voices of the fiddles:

We want to eat, we want to drink,

We want to make the glasses clink.

While the grave voice of the bass-viol grumbled:

As God wills! As God wills!

It was a great holiday for him to be permitted to hear a fiddle at the harvest-festival or at a wedding. Afterward he

would crawl behind the oven and for days not utter a word. He would merely stare before him with his shining eyes like a cat in the dark.

At last he made a fiddle for himself from a shingle, using horse's hair for the strings. But his instrument did not make as beautiful music as those in the tavern. The strings tinkled softly—too softly; they buzzed like flies or gnats.

Nevertheless, Janko played on his fiddle from morning till evening, though he received so many blows and pinches that he soon resembled an unripe apple covered with bruises. It was in his blood, however, and he could not help himself.

III.

THE boy grew more emaciated, his chest and cheeks sinking in deeper and deeper. But his stomach became still puffier, the shock of hair still thicker and his eyes, blurred by tears, more staring.

He bore no resemblance to other children, but rather to his fiddle, with tinkled and buzzed in scarcely audible tones. And before the harvest he lived almost entirely upon raw turnips and the longing to own a violin.

His longing, alas! bore no good results.

The butler at the manor-house had a violin, on which he sometimes performed in the twilight to please the pretty maids of service. Janko crept through the pannels up to the very door of the buttery in order to listen, or, at least, cast a glance at the violin. It hung on the wall directly opposite the door.

The boy set his whole soul to it through his eyes. For it seemed to him an unapproachable holy of holies, which he was unworthy to touch, even if it was the dearest thing on earth to him.

An anxious longing took possession of him. He wanted to handle it at least once, only inspect it at close range. The poor little child's heart quivered with bliss at the mere thought.

One evening there was no one in the buttery. The family had been abroad for some time, and the house was empty. The butler, therefore, was sitting on the other side with some village Venus.

Janko, hidden by the creeping plants, looked long through the open door at the goal of his desires.

The full moon sent its rays through the window into the room, directly upon the opposite wall. Soon the light approached the violin, too, and finally illuminated it entirely. It shone so brightly that Janko was fairly dazzled.

He could see every detail of the instrument—the curved sides, the strings, the bent handle. The pegs gleamed like glowworms, the bow like a rod of silver.

Ah, it was all so beautiful, almost magical! Janko stared more and more

greedily. Crouching among the vines, his elbows planted on his lean knees, he kept his eyes fixed on the spot.

At one moment fear beheld him rooted to the ground; the next instant an unconquerable desire pushed him forward. Was he bewitched? The violin in its glory of light seemed to draw nearer, as it floating toward him through the air.

For a short while the splendor was extinguished, only to flare up again the more brilliantly. Magic, real magic! All the time a breeze blew, gently stirring the trees; the vines whispered, and Janko thought he distinctly heard them saying:

"Go on, Janko! There's not a living soul in the buttery. Go on!"

It was a bright, cheerful night. Dawn by the pond in the manor-house garden the nightingale began to sing and say, now softly, now aloud:

"Forward, Janko. Take it!"

The honest night-raven circled about the child's head and croaked:

"Don't, Janko, don't!"

The raven flew away, the nightingale remained, and the vines whispered more and more distinctly:

"Nobody's there!"

The violin appeared again in its glory of light.

The sorry, bent little figure glided cautiously nearer, while the nightingale piped:

"Forward, Janko. Take it!"

The little white shirt glimmered closer to the door. The black stalks of the plants no longer hid it from sight. On the threshold could be heard the quick breathing of the child's sick breast.

A moment later and the little white shirt vanished; only one bare foot remained on the threshold. It was in vain that the raven flew past again and called out his warning:

"Don't, Janko, don't!"

Janko was already inside the buttery!

The frogs in the pond suddenly began to croak as if something had frightened them. Then they grew still again. The nightingale ceased to pipe, the vines to whisper.

Janko glided nearer and nearer with cautious steps.

Now he was seized with a panic. Hidden among the plants, he had felt himself at home, like a wild animal in the thick; now he felt like a wild animal in a trap.

His movements were hasty, his breath came in short whistles, and the darkness surrounded him. The silent sheet-lightning playing between the east and the west cast its quick flash into the room and fell upon poor little Janko, who was hopping toward the violin on all fours, his head stretched in the air.

After the lightning, blackness again. The moon was obscured by a cloud;

nothing could be seen or heard. But presently a soft, tearful tone penetrated the dark, as if some one had incautiously touched a chord; and suddenly a coarse, sleepy voice came from a corner of the room, angrily exclaiming:

"Who's there?"

Janko held his breath, but the coarse voice repeated:

"Who's there?"

The light of a match flickered against the wall, the room turned bright, and then—O God!—and then came curses, blows, the cries of the child, screams and calls, the barking of dogs, the running of men's feet, an uproar in the whole house.

IV.

THE second day afterward poor Janko appeared at court before the village magistrate.

Should sentence be passed upon him as a thief? Certainly. The magistrate and his assistants looked upon him standing there, his finger in his mouth, his eyes staring and terrified, puny, wasted, greasy, bruised, ignorant of where he was or what was wanted of him.

How can one pronounce judgment upon such a miserable little creature, scarcely ten years old and almost incapable of standing upon its feet?

Should he be sent to prison? After all, mercy must be shown to children. Let the night-watch take him and give him a caning, so that he will not steal a second time, and there let the matter end.

Agreed!

Stach, the night-watch, was summoned. He nodded his stupid brute's head, stuck Janko under his arm like a kitten, and carried him to the barn.

The boy either did not understand what it was all about, or he was too frightened to plead. However it was, he said not a word, and looked about him like a terrified bird. He probably did not even know what Stach meant to do with him.

Not until Stach took a firm grip on him in the barn, stretched him on the ground, and, holding up the little shirt, began to rain blows on his back, did Janko cry out.

"Mother!" he screamed after each blow: "Mother! Mother!" each time more softly and more weakly than before. Finally he ceased to scream altogether.

The poor cracked fiddle!

Stach, you blockhead, you wicked, wicked man! Who would beat a child that way! Why, the child has always been small and weak, scarcely able to hold the breath of life!

At last the mother came and took the child with her. She had to carry him home. The next day he did not rise from his bed, and the day after he quietly

breathed out his last on the hard couch under the coarse horse-blanket.

The swallows twittered in the cherry-tree outside the window, a shaft of sunlight pierced the pane and poured its golden shower on the child's tousled hair and on the little face, in which not a drop of blood remained.

The shaft of sunlight was the road which the child's soul was to travel. Well for him that in the moment of death he could tread the broad beam of light, for in life he had had a rough and thorny path to traverse.

The flat chest was still heaving gently, and the child's face seemed to reflect the sounds of the outer world that came through the open window.

It was in the evening. The peasant girls, as they returned from haying, sang "In the Greenwood," and from the brook came the pipings of the shawm-players. For the last time, Janko listened to the sound and song of the village. Beside him on the horse-blanket lay the fiddle carved from a shingle. Suddenly the child's dying face brightened, and the pale lips whispered:

"Mother!"

"What is it, my boy?" asked the mother in a tear-choked voice.

"Mother, the good Lord will give me a real fiddle in heaven, won't He?"

"Yes, my child, yes!"

This was all the mother could reply. For from her hard breast suddenly burst all the woe that had gathered there; and she groaned:

"O Jesus, Jesus Christ!"

She fell face downward on the chest, and began to wail like one whom death is robbing of her dearest possession.

When she raised her head and looked at the child, the eyes of the little musician were open but immovable, the face was serious, gloomy, and rigid. The shaft of sunlight had vanished.

Rest in peace, Janko!

The next day the family at the manor-house returned from its trip to Italy, including the young lady and the cavalier who was suing for her hand.

The suitor said in French:

"What an exquisite country Italy is!"

"And a race of artists! It is a pleasure to seek out geniuses there and patronize them," rejoined the young lady.

The birches rustled over Janko's grave!

THE RIGHT TO DECLARE LAWS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

AMONG the many important resolutions which the American Federation of Labor adopted at its recent convention is one which has received favorable attention by the honest and intelligent section of the daily press and which will be earnestly approved by thoughtful students of constitutional problems. We refer to the resolution demanding that the power to annul statutes on constitutional grounds shall be taken away from all inferior and intermediate courts, state and federal, and vested exclusively in the supreme courts. That is, state legislation shall be judged and passed upon by the highest state judicial tribunals and federal enactments by the Supreme Court of the United States, and, moreover, in all such cases unanimity shall be required and a statute shall stand unless the whole court having jurisdiction shall agree that it is repugnant to the constitution.

This is a wise and at the same time a very progressive position. We have on many occasions called attention to the usurpations and encroachments of the courts of all degrees of merit and jurisdiction, to the alarming and revolutionary tendency to set aside legislation on the flimsiest pretexts, or even on the one-sided, prejudiced, shallow, manifestly dis-

honest allegations of tricky corporation lawyers; to the rise of the "unwritten law" which claims that the judges are the whole government and entitled to do as they please with labor and all other legislation. We discussed the question at a time when it was not even admitted to be an open one and when to challenge the tyranny of the courts was to be branded by the organs of privilege as an enemy of the constitution.

Of late a number of eminent lawyers, professors and even state judges have taken up this question and argued that a halt must be called to the arrogance and presumption of the courts as law nullifiers. The controversies between several states and federal courts over railroad regulation statutes furnish abundant illustrations of the evil practices in question. Persons who were indifferent to labor's protests against the abuse of the injunction writ are declaring vehemently that omnibus injunctions suspending state laws, and threatening state executives with contempt proceedings, are simply intolerable. The federal courts are running amuck in some districts, and the question of muzzling them, of teaching them their place under the real constitution of the country—the constitution as it was meant to operate, not as plutocracy is now ex-

plotting it with the aid of lawyers trained in corporation offices—of curbing them by legislation or constitutional amendment, has become a vital and urgent one in the country.

Chief Justice Clark, of the highest court of North Carolina, is one of the able jurists who have written essays to show that there is not a line or hint in the Constitution of the United States which can be construed to make judges censors of legislatures and executives or to give them power to set aside deliberately enacted statutes. The whole practice in the judgment of these able writers is sheer usurpation. There has been no disposition in legal circles to controvert their arguments. Professor Giddings of Columbia University, a leading sociological thinker, says the judicial veto on legislation has proved to be the greatest force for the maintenance of special privilege and injustice under our laws. He advocates a sort of referendum to decide differences between Congress and the Supreme Court over the constitutionality of legislation. He would make the people themselves the final interpreters of the constitution the real sovereigns, the makers of fundamental laws.

This proposal is more radical than that of the convention of the Federation. We do not think it feasible at present, though it is sound in principle, for the people made the constitutions—state and national—and they alone ought to have the authority to decide what is and what is not in harmony with the organic law. We do not, however, think it expedient

to agitate for so radical a change as would be an amendment providing for a referendum on laws that the courts of last resorts have held invalid.

The Federation suggests a more moderate and easier plan. Its proposal is one which should appeal to common sense and provoke little honest opposition.

Let the highest courts retain the power of setting aside laws, but let us insist that their decisions must be unanimous to effectively annul a law enacted by the people's representatives in Congress or state legislatures, and signed by the President or the governor of a state. The grave responsibility that rests on them in such cases makes unanimity clearly desirable and reasonable.

The frequent and violent disagreements of the courts, the five to four decisions in the most momentous cases, the overnight conversions of individual judges, the straddling of some issues by other judges—remember the Philippine tariff cases and the queer rown opinions—go far to bring home to the average fair-minded man the need and propriety of demanding unanimity in decisions involving the annulment of laws.

We may add frankly that under the Federation's plan very few such annulments would actually occur. The courts would generally be divided, and the laws challenged would, therefore, stand—as they ought to stand where there is reasonable doubt as to the merits of the objections to them. Thus the reform, moderate in theory, would be far-reaching and practical in results.

THE POWER OF UNION.

Benefits That Accrue to Organized Labor Through Organization--By Banding Together Workers Protect Individual Rights and Promote Collective Welfare--Menial Condition of the Nonunionist.

Workingmen organize for individual advancement and mutual help. By associating together they protect their individual rights and promote their collective welfare. Left alone, each to struggle for himself against the brutality of the labor market, the tendency of wages would be ever downward. To partly make up for the shortage in pay which would be the inevitable consequence the hours of labor would be greatly increased in order to satisfy the greedy. Thus with more work per day and less wages the number of unemployed would continually increase and the ever expanding circle of lower conditions would find no limit.

In this way the public welfare would be impaired by lessening the home market and domestic consumption of

the necessities of life. In such unhealthy competition both the inferior and superior workmen alike suffer. The merciless and cruel rule of competition among employers on jobs or contracts leads them to seek the cheapest labor at the longest hours of toil.

But how stands it with unorganized labor? Beggary, with hat in hand, it seeks the privilege to toil. With bent shoulders and submissive head, humble and plain, it oftentimes sinks its manhood for the sake of a job. When at work each strives to outstrip the other to keep favor with the boss. Some grow so menial under such depraved conditions that they become toadies and lickspittles and play the "sucker" act with the boss.

With the organization of labor, how-

ever, the scene changes. Manhood is asserted; the weak are upheld by the strong. The individual workman is no longer left alone to make his own bargain with the employer or contractor under depressing disadvantages. By organizing with his fellows in a union of his trade collective bargaining for the mutual good becomes the rule. Then the boss can no longer say, "Take what I give you or you can go!"

Workmen in a union have the power, when conservatively and discreetly used, to make joint agreements with their employers and avoid strikes, lock-outs and all unpleasant feeling. That such is not the case is largely the fault of the men who remain outside of a union, who hamper the union's efforts and trust to their own insignificant personality or meretricious chance to pull them through. This latter class invariably are aids and abettors to Parry, the Citizens' association, the Anti-boycott association and the other organizations of employers who masquerade as upholders of "individual liberty" and are the industrial debauches of the workers.

In these days of gigantic industrial strides with machinery, electricity and other labor saving forces, with combination of moneyed men and trusts, with the machinery of law and the subtle influences of manifold political corruption in varied forms, the workman who travels in the old stagecoach of individualism is certainly an indecipherable back number.

We organize trades unions for a higher manhood, for protection of the lowly and the humble, for better homes and longer and happier lives, for the possession of the full fruits of our toil and against all forms of industrial robbery, social injustice and political despotism.

The trade unions are far from perfect, but they are an agency for good, ever eager and more eager to attain perfection. In some cases they have undoubtedly made lamentable mistakes. They have at times entered into hasty

and heedless strikes, but with age and discipline they enter into fewer strikes. Again, occasionally they have indulged in sympathetic strikes. So did France when it took the side of our infant republic against the British government; so did the northern states when they took up arms against the south for the freedom of the slaves.

Where the workers are well organized and dealt with collectively by fair trade agreement honorably respected sympathetic strikes have no place.

In the past the trades unions were ephemeral, formed for the time being in a shop or a locality to ask more pay or strike in good times or to resist a reduction of wages in hard times. From that intine they expanded to national proportions and finally into a gigantic power, such as the American Federation of Labor. They are not autocratic nor obedient to any one man power. Their officers are elected by the majority. The membership has the power to remove any officer who exceeds his authority or who is not suitable. In this they exercise the purest form of democracy. Though at first ridiculed, misunderstood and combated, they are rapidly gaining in public favor, educating the public press, winning the pulpit and courting the help of the thoughtful and the humane.

At present the trades unions are in their primary growth, in some cases crude and eager for conflict. With time and patience they will become more powerful, more cautious, better disciplined and command still greater respect. With high dues and well filled treasuries they can take care of their sick and disabled members; they can have their funeral benefits and other forms of cheap mutual insurance under their own control.

For these practical things we organize, and those who remain outside of our ranks stand in their own light and act as a clog on all of our worthy endeavors.—P. J. McGuire in American Federationist.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION.

TELEGRAPHERS JOURNAL.

THIS association was started by the Postal officials, in order that the scabs in the employ of the company could have an organization after the strike had been suspended; and for the further purpose of trying to break up the C. T. U. A., whose officers and members virtually made that company the powerful competitor of the Western Union, it formerly was.

Each applicant for membership is required to sign the following:

"In the event that I am admitted to membership, I hereby agree to be governed and bound by the terms and provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the association and to be governed by the rules and regulations of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, to properly perform my duties thereunder and to work in har-

mony with all other employes while in the employ of said company. *I am not a member of any union and I hereby agree not to join any union nor any other organization hostile to the interests of said company, while in its employ.*"

After the application has been passed upon favorably, and the member thus joining has signed away what liberty he formerly possessed as a free American citizen, he then becomes a pensioner, the amount of pension to which he is entitled to be determined by the company, according to the length of continuous service, the company reserving the right to modify the tables of percentage payments for incapacitation from duty at the expiration of each year.

The Postal calls this an association for maintaining good and permanent relations between the company and its employes.

The officers and directors are to be selected annually by the different district superintendents.

All employes of the company are eligible except messengers, and all applications must be approved by the local director selected by the district superintendent and the general manager of the company elected by the executive committee of the association, the members having no voice or vote in selecting any of the officials managing it, in any manner whatever.

Any discharged member can have his case considered by the local manager of the company, and a copy of the member's application for reinstatement can be sent to the district superintendent and general superintendent of the company. A member who has been in the continuous employ of the company for four years, will not be dismissed without the approval of his superintendent.

A suggestion for the benefit of the employes of the company may be made by a member to the director of the district he is employed in and such director may, if he deem best, refer such suggestions to the local manager and superintendent, and also to the officers of the association, who if they deem best can refer it to the general manager, with the request that it be acted upon.

The constitution can only be amended by a majority vote of the directors, with the approval of the general manager, the membership having no voice or vote whatever in the matter.

Deceased member carrying life insurance for not less than \$500 will be allowed funeral expenses in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$200, in accordance with the length of continuous service, from five to twenty years.

Membership will continue only so long as the members remain solely in the employ of the company, unless sooner terminated by resignation, absence from duty without leave, discharge from the company's service, or the joining of a union or other organization hostile to the interests of the company.

Members feigning sickness, or making any other misrepresentations shall be expelled from the association by the executive committee, and will not thereafter be eligible to membership.

Reference having been made to this association by the correspondent of Local No. 16, in this issue of *The Journal*, we have therefore acquiesced to a number of requests that we publish all information possible in regard thereto.

The following is a list of the officers and board of directors of this rival (?) of the C. T. U. A.:

Officers for 1908—President, Stevenson B. Haig, New York; vice president, Frederick W. Conger, Chicago; Secretary, Thomas E. Fleming, New York. Executive Committee, John J. Cochrane, New York; John A. McNichol, Philadelphia, and Charles A. Richardson, Boston.

Board of Directors, 1908—Eastern Division—First district, C. A. Richardson, Boston; Second district, J. F. Coogan, Newark, N. J.; New York City, J. J. Cochrane, New York; Third district, J. A. McNichol, Philadelphia; Fourth district, Robert J. Little, Rochester, N. Y.; Fifth district, A. W. Rinehard, Pittsburg, Pa.; Sixth district, Wm. C. Pruyn, Albany, N. Y.; Seventh district, C. C. Ramsay, Portland, Me.; Eighth district, Otto G. Kroher, Hartford, Conn.

Western Division—First district, M. E. Cozens, Chicago; Chicago city office, George Smallbone, Chicago; Second district, B. J. Ross, Cleveland, Ohio; Third district, W. S. Daniels, St. Louis; Fourth district, Peter J. Becker, Detroit, Mich.; Fifth district, H. Morlan, Kansas City, Mo.; Sixth district, D. McNichol, Salt Lake City, Utah; Seventh district, Jerome B. Coggins, Denver, Colo.; Eighth district, James B. Sampley, Des Moines, Ia.; Ninth district, C. A. Comstock, Milwaukee, Wis.

Southern Division—First district, C. T. Sydnor, Richmond, Va.; Second district, T. D. Jackson, Birmingham, Ala.; Third district, F. L. Wood, Augusta, Ga.; Fourth and Fifth districts, L. W. Janes, Louisville, Ky.; Sixth district, J. R. Parker, New Orleans, La.; Seventh district, L. A. Mitchell, Jacksonville, Fla.; Eighth district, W. C. Lloyd, Memphis, Tenn.

Pacific Division—First district, T. H. Berry, San Francisco, Cal.; Second district, J. J. Dunne, Seattle, Wash.; Third district, C. W. Holt, Los Angeles, Cal.

CORRESPONDENCE

St. Louis No. 1.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Seeing you have published in the December issue of our journal the agreement with the Elevator Constructors Union would like to say to the members of the I. B. E. W. that this agreement was made in Washington in 1903 and was printed in our journal in August Number, 1903. I am satisfied that the older members of our Brotherhood never liked that agreement and it is up to our members not to let this Elevator Construction encroach on our work, which they will do if not shut down on.

Another thing. The feed wire ends at the controller, not at the main line switch.

The Elevator Constructors tried for a number of years to get a charter from the International Building Trades Council, but our delegates there kept them from it as they claimed all electric work belonged to the I. B. E. W. which it does under its charter from the A. F. of L.

When this agreement was signed up in Washington, the Elevator Constructors there was able to get their charter from the A. F. of L. and filed their original agreement with the A. F. of L. and a copy of this same can be gotten there.

The writer claims that this agreement should never have been entered into and is an injustice to the I. B. E. W. after the decisions that had been rendered in our favor by the General Executive Board of the International Building Trades Council of St. Louis and vicinity, June 27, 1902; also, decisions in our favor given at the I. B. T. C. convention held at Worcester, Mass., in January, 1902.

Furthermore, that agreement does not give them this right to instal conduits, (see decisions of convention assembled at Worcester that all electrical work belongs to the members to the I. B. E. W.) and our Grand Officers, after having all the decisions that have been given in the I. B. E. W.'s favor can sign an agreement giving away our work is more than the writer can understand.

If the members of the I. B. E. W. will get the decisions in our favor and make a careful study of them, I feel satisfied that to a man they will go after the work that rightfully belongs to us and get it.

I am in hopes No. 5 of Pittsburg, will win out in the Hemphill case as we had

a similar case here in St. Louis. I remain,

Fraternally,

HARRY W. SANBORN.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 22, 1907.

Stockton (Auxiliary) No. 1.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

In Stockton, California, there exists a local union of the wives of members of the Electrical Workers Brotherhood known as Ladies of the I. B. E. W., Local Union No. 1. We have our own constitution and by-laws and our meetings are business meetings, carried on by parliamentary rules. We wish to make our organization a national one and to that end wish to say a few words to the wives of members of Local Unions elsewhere.

In the first place we are *not* a Label League. To buy label goods is of course one rule of our local and while we will observe it closely it is not the main and only issue.

In the second place we are *not* in the ordinary sense an Auxiliary to the I. B. E. W. While we do all in our power to further their aims and desires, we "have troubles" that are strictly "our own." We are trying to, no, we *are*, undertaking a work that will be of great benefit to them but it is our secret and we guard it zealously. This work will have national importance when accomplished and while this one local has put its shoulder to that great wheel, we feel that much more could be done, had we a national organization; if two heads be better than one as the old adage asserts, surely two (or many) shoulders can push harder than one.

We would like to hear from the wives of I. B. E. W. men in regard to their opinion of a national organization. If there be one woman in a community who thinks that the wives of union men can be of service and who is willing to organize the wives of the I. B. E. W. men in her locality we will be glad to do all in our power to be of assistance to her.

You will perhaps have noticed that only the wives are mentioned. With all due respect to mothers, sisters, etc., we know that the wives alone will do far more in an organization, and I have found the wives willing to assume the duties of our organization, willing to work and plan and execute, provided the membership was limited to wives alone. So it is only to the wives of I. B. E. W. men we ap-

peal. We ourselves would send out organizers, could we afford it but we cannot at present. As it is members who expect to visit in other towns or have business in other localities have voluntarily offered to try to organize a local in whatever place they might be.

I feel that my letter has been very indefinite and perhaps vague, but if the ladies interested will write, asking questions, I will be glad to make matters as clear as possible. Our constitution and by-laws will soon be in printed form and we will be glad to send out copies when asked for.

Hoping to hear from various points and asking at least a consideration of this project, I am,

MRS. EDW. C. DAVIS,
1541 E Scott ave.,
Stockton, Calif.

Pittsburg No. 5.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At dawn of the year 1908, there will be one more local in difficulty in its efforts to better the conditions of the membership. We have before now officially notified the Grand Office. It will, of course, take advantage of the Constitution relating to traveling cards. Two weeks ago we expected to have everything amicably adjusted, but on the eleventh hour the contractors threw down the gauntlet and at the present time I can see no way out of a fight. We expect to win, but at the same time we expect a long fight.

J. P. KERRIGAN.

Pittsburg, Pa.

Chicago No. 9.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

In the November WORKER, our worthy brother from L. U. No. 104 writes something which should start us all to thinking. The subject is worthy of much deep thought. It is the matter of paying sick-benefits to a brother worker before he has been a member of the L. U. a stipulated time.

Now I would like to illustrate a case, to show how, many locals do the "floater" a great injustice, and many of you will bear me out in all I say.

"John Doe" has paid dues for January, February, March and April in L. U. No. 1000. By-Laws of L. U. No. 1000 read that a member is not eligible to sick-benefit until he has been a member of said L. U. three (3) months.

All well and good (for the by-laws), but our brother "John Doe" only has protection for the month of April, and yet he has paid dues into the treasury of L. U. No. 1000 for four (4) months.

Now, we will further say, that said "John Doe" loses his situation, and must leave the jurisdiction of L. U. No. 1000, so he must take a traveling-card. He

goes to the town of X—, and finding work deposits his card in L. U. No. 2000.

The by-laws of L. U. No. 2000 state very plainly, that he must be a member for three months before he is entitled to sick benefits. After having paid dues for the months of May, June and July, he is again out of work, and if he takes out a traveling-card, as he must, according to the constitution, he has now paid to the Brotherhood, dues for seven (7) months and has had protection for only one (1) month; that month being April.

Now brothers, we all know that we are doing the "floater" an injustice, and as we are not organized for the purpose of injuring one another, we should do something to repair this wrong. We don't forget to yell hard when we are treated this way by any one else, so I think we had better get busy.

My plan is this: and I only state it after much time spent in thinking, planning and considering. If a member pays dues for one month in any local of the I. B. E. W., he is entitled to protection from sickness or accident by the L. U. accepting his money for said month.

Now, if no other way seems feasible, why not try this; if you compel "John Doe" to pay into the treasury of your L. U. three (3) months dues before you will protect him against sickness or accident, then why not protect him for three (3) months after he has left your L. U.?

I believe that every member that pays dues for any month into any L. U. should be given protection for any month and at any place.

Think it over brothers, and if you know of a better plan, let's hear of it; for we should get at this, and the sooner the better, for "Better late than never;" is a proverb that we want to live up to in matters of this kind.

Hoping to hear more on the subject, and offering my apologies for this poor attempt, believe me to be,

Yours, for the cause, of the I. B. E. W.,
THEO. LE BARON.

371 W. Harrison st., Chicago, Ill.

The many friends of James Shea will be grieved to hear that he was killed at Three Oaks, Michigan, 70 miles from Chicago. The remains were taken in charge by Local No. 9, and shipped to relatives in Columbus, Ohio, where his brother John, of Pittsburg, Pa., awaited the arrival of the body. The death of Jimmie Shea records the passing away of a good, generous, jovial fellow and he undoubtedly will be greatly mourned by all who know him and especially the floaters.

Chicago and No. 9, like all the rest of the country is feeling the effects of the tight money market although we have not as much reason for complaint as other trades in this vicinity, there are a

few members of this Local out of work whereas others report fifty per cent of the members idle. The principal reason that our members are working is that the electrical department of the city is doing considerable work and is employing in the neighborhood of 100 stick walkers, with prospects of the work lasting the greater part of the winter.

Wishing each and every Local of the Brotherhood a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I remain, with brotherly respect and regards from No. 9.
M. J. H.

Terre Haute No. 25.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As Local No. 25 has not had a letter in the WORKER for about a year I will try and see what I can do on my first attempt. There is just twelve members working in and around the "Hut" at present and ten of them are working for the Citizens Tel. Co., one for the City Fire Alarm and one for the Postal Tel. Co. The Light Co. here which is now the T. H. I. & E. Traction and Light Co. has got there pets just where they ought to be, that is, they are working for \$2.47 per day and straight time for all holidays. Just about \$2.00 per more than they ought to get. The C. U. Tel. Co. has just a couple of students that are certainly learning their work in this town. It will be a job to rebuild in a couple of years.

At our last meeting of the year we elected the following brothers as officers for the next term: President, C. Eringer; Vice President, Chas. Swaim; Financial Secretary, O. T. Stewart; Recording Secretary, W. J. Watt; Trustees, J. Hanback, Dan Ross, C. Swaim; Treasurer, H. Irminger. On and after January 3d, this Local will meet at Germania hall on North Ninth St., on the first and third Fridays of the month. My next letter might be different if some few members don't come clean and settle up.

Success with a happy New Year to all,
W. J. W. Rec. Sec.

Washington No. 26.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Organized labor, 20,000 strong, in a parade which extended from the Peace Monument westward to Fifteenth street, and which afterwards packed Convention Hall to the extent that fully 15,000 union men and their sympathizers were forced to occupy the streets on either side of that mammoth building in order to get even a view of the speakers at the mass meeting, was the tribute paid organized labor and its fight against the open-shop in Washington on Nov. 26. The Capitol City has, since its beginning as the head of the nation's government, seen parades and parades, mass meetings and gatherings of people, but old-timers say that

the demonstration on the Tuesday night preceding Thanksgiving was the greatest collection of people whose whole heart and soul were more in the movement which they represented, than has ever been witnessed here.

The monster parade was one hour and forty-five minutes in passing a given point, and every labor union affiliated either with the American Federation of Labor or the Central Labor Union, had representatives, each bedecked with banners, transparencies, and signs typical of their respective trades. Brass bands, drum corps, floats, automobiles carrying members of the ladies' auxiliaries, carriages in which the distinguished guests rode, were among the things that held the Washington public's attention for an hour and a half during a bleak, cold, windy night, while the march was under headway.

At the mass meeting which immediately followed the parade, at which William Jennings Bryan, Samuel Gompers, G. P. McNulty, James O'Connell, William G. Huber, C. O. Young, John Fahy, Herbert V. Crampton, and John Hodge, Member of Parliament of Manchester, England, made addresses on labor topics, President McNulty receiving applause which in volume was second only to that received by Mr. Bryan and President Gompers.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 26, which had taken such a prominent part in the parade, and whose electrical display had been declared to have been the most unique one in the long line, had acquitted itself creditably, and President McNulty was proud to stand before the huge mass of people and state that he was the head of that organization. President McNulty in his address, dwelt upon the point that to secure a sure victory and an effective one, it is only necessary for the Washington union men to stick together.

"Stick, stick, stick," he said, "and victory for organized labor and defeat for the open shop and its champions will, must follow. The devil was the inaugurator of the first open shop, but it is my own opinion that even his Satanic Majesty will soon do away with that, as from present indications, the men bearing union cards are all heading the other way, leaving the lurid regions for the scabs and foes of unionism.

"When it comes to fighting an united Employers' Association, we get together. Should the open shop in Washington be forced upon the building trades, then it is but a question of time when it will be forced upon the miscellaneous trades. You will find more honesty in the labor movement to the square inch than you will find in any other movement to the square yard. Stand together, boys, and no power on earth can defeat you."

That the address of Mr. McNulty was fully endorsed by the great concourse of people was exemplified by the round of cheers and applauses which were accorded him after he had finished.

The display, or float, of the Electrical Workers, was decidedly the most attractive display in the whole parade, and was conceded by both press and public to have been the most unique idea ever brought into play in a parade of this character. Of the float, The Washington Post had this to say:

"Time, labor, and expense were not taken into consideration by the Electrical Workers while the float was being built. Of the hundred or more displays, representing an equal number of trades' unions, and each almost perfect in its class, the electrical float, with its hundreds of varied colored lights extending to the front and rear, was universally declared to have been the most "catchy" float of the evening, as well as the most original."

An electric truck, propelled by its own storage battery, and furnishing power to light 1,500 eight-candle power red, white and blue covered bulbs, received the greatest ovations all along the line. The truck was decorated with palms and plants, and on either side was a huge sign bearing the lettering, "I. B. E. W., Local 26." Wires were stretched before and behind the vehicle, and from these wires dangled the varied colored lights, which were carried by the members of the local. President McNulty headed this section, and was followed by more than 250 members of the union.

JOHN J. PURCELL.

Duluth No. 31.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Locked Out. All locals will kindly take notice to the difficulty in which Local 31 has fallen into at the present time. Previous to this time we have fought our battles without aid, but now we ask aid, but not in a financial way, yet we desire at this time your moral support and good will in scattering the news to everyone in your community so that the floating brothers will not be enticed to come here by the advertising which is being done in every state by the contractors of our city.

Our trouble arose about the 1st of December, when the contractors of all building trades, which are allied to the Builders Exchange, posted notices in their respective places declaring open shop on all unions affiliated with the Trades Alliance, our central body. About two weeks previous to this they issued notices to all unions to break away from the central body and they would deal with the unions separately; this was ignored by all the trades and the lock-out was declared.

A Mr. Drew from Chicago, was instru-

mental in bursting the bubble. He drove it into the minds of the members of the Builders Exchange that it was an easy matter to break up the unions and have an open shop city; he also stated that the American Manufacturers Association was willing to take up the fight and aid them financially in winning the same. A mass meeting of the citizens was called at the Commercial Club, and Mr. Drew was the main speaker, giving the unions no chance to defend themselves. The union leaders have issued several challenges to meet the contractors at any public place, but have not been granted a reply to their request. The Real Estate Exchange also is helping the Builders Exchange, so brothers you can see we have a hard road to travel; but our shoulders are hard against the wheel, for any weakness on our part would be very disastrous at this time. We are sorry to have to place before you three brothers of Local 31 who have declared against us, Bros. Hibbard and Armour, old members of the organization whom we never expected had such low principle, the other one a member of short duration, A. W. Lindgren, whom we didn't expect much different from, joining us about six months ago.

Hoping the locals will please keep this in mind and distribute the news as much as possible in keeping members away from Duluth, Minn., I remain,

H. J. GIBBS, Press Secy.

We wish to state for the information of all brotherhood members that Duluth has been and is today a union town so far as union men are concerned.

On Dec. 1st, the Builders Exchange locked out all union men affiliated with the Structural Alliance, some 1,600 in number. Since then they have advertised everywhere for men, stating this to be an open shop town and no strike or trouble on. Many union men have come here, only to find the true situation and quit, in most cases. The bricklayers are the only card men working and they refuse to come out, so the contractors claim that many union men are working.

We hope no more card men will be deceived by promises as above mentioned and ask you to spread the information that the unions of Duluth are in the midst of a fierce battle for the union shop.

W. J. HUNT, P. S.,
431 S. Twenty-First Ave.

Hartford No. 37.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well brothers, another year has passed away and old 37 is still doing business and has made a little advance upwards. We have a meeting place that is second to none and we are all proud of it. It makes quite an impression on new members to come in to a hall that he can

breathe good fresh air in. We do not allow smoking at meetings and everything is up to date. We are going to show any visitors that may call on us that linemen and all electrical workers have a little respect for themselves and that they are not as bad as some people think.

But we have our troubles, the same as other locals. We have some bad eggs in 37 who never show themselves at meetings and who do all their kicking on the outside. Ask them why they don't come up to the meetings and tell their troubles they always have dates for something else on meeting nights. Then we have another kind that took the obligation and who buy booze with their due money, but who are good fellows with some of our members, but people that have no respect for themselves are better outside as they would be like bad apples in a barrel of good ones. We have had troubles enough in our Brotherhood with bad members in the past.

Now that we are moving up and are showing those that we come in contact with that we are not looking for anything but what is right and just.

The brotherhood have every reason to feel proud of their Grand President as I have heard that he has started some good work at the last meeting of the A. F. of L. that you will hear of later and I am sure that our Grand Secretary is doing his share as he has had an up hill fight and my little experience with him tells me that he is doing his duty. The other grand officers I am sure they are doing their duty.

Brother, your Local or Grand Officers cannot do their duty if you don't help them. You are not doing your duty when you pay your dues every month. That is only the financial part and a very good one, but you have got to show the people on the outside that you are a union man in every other way.

We have lost two good members from No. 37 by resignation this year; we have lost others by the drop-out act.

Those two brothers that resigned are worthy of mention in our WORKER. One is brother D. J. Dowling, who was treasurer for years and was an honest, faithful worker but who never let his union work interfere with his duty to his employers as no honest union man does. He has been made assistant district foreman and he has the best wishes of 37. The other brother is Maurice Collins, who was financial secretary for 37 and who done his duty in that position for a long time but was always faithful in his work for the company and who has the position of wire chief and who also has the best wishes of 37. Those two ex-brothers are deserving of the best wishes of the brotherhood.

Brothers the best men the companies of the world has working for them to-

day are men that line up to their union principals. A man that does his duty by his union has got to do it for his employer. I have often heard fellows say to h— with the company, but brothers there are others to think of. You forget the subscribers that has lights or telephone and who are paying for good service and which is up to you to give them. A great many times that is the trouble with a great many of us. We only see one side of everything. We have only a short time in this world and let us do the best we can. Don't look to see what the other fellow is doing. You do your work right, the other fellows will fall in line.

Our election of officers are on again. We have a good set of officers in at present and I think there will be very little change in them for the coming year. It is not right to run a free horse to death brother, your officers need a little rest and a chance to do a little talking on the floor. Don't be afraid to take the wheel in your turn and steer the ship a little way. It won't hurt you to get posted on how to run things. It will make you take more interest in your work. Your humble servant is booked for another term without opposition so far, and I will try and improve my work a little if I win out.

Just a word before I close to our brother financial secretaries. Don't forget the brother out of town that cannot attend meetings. Drop them a WORKER as often as you can and let them see you don't forget them. Keep them posted that way and they won't forget there is such a thing as the I. B. E. W. Brothers, don't insult a man because he don't see things the way you do. If he don't want to come your way leave him alone. Anything that is forced is no good. Be a man, do your work honest and faithful for your employer. There is nothing gained by being dishonest and everything to lose.

Best wishes and a prosperous New Year for the I. B. E. W. D. M. M.

Belleville No. 50.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, brothers, I suppose you have commenced to think that Local No. 50 has gone out of existence on account of not hearing from us but it is all a mistake. I would not advise any of the brothers to come this way looking for work for it is very slack here. The Bell Telephone Co. has only one lineman but the Kinloch has several. The former had a floating gang rebuilding the line from Edgmont to the former city limits but all in Belleville now.

At our last regular meeting our crowd was slim on account of its being nomination of officers and many of our brothers were afraid to attend for fear of having to take an office but those that were there accepted the office without a mur-

mur. So, brothers, you need not be afraid of attending our next meeting.

As news is short, I will close and give more news next time.

D. M. MALLINSON,
Press Secretary.

Harrisburg No. 53.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local Union No. 53 gave an open meeting and smoker on Monday, December 16th, which was a partial success, as the speakers were all to the good and so was the feed, but for applications for membership a rank failure, as we did not see any. We had a small sleet storm on the Saturday before that which took quite a few of the boys out of town which helped to keep the attendance down.

We had with us that night as speakers, Bro. J. J. Reid, 1st G. V. P.; Bro. H. W. Potter, President of Dist. Council; Bro. Keller, an organizer of the Boiler Workers, and Bro. Coudren of the Brewery Workers and you can be sure there was plenty of hot air, but it was all true as said.

As for work in this neck, things are very poor at present. We have in this town two light companies, two telegraph companies, two street railway companies and one high tension power company and neither doing anything but the trouble work at present, so you can see things are very poor for the lineman at present. As far as the inside men things are about normal. Ex-Bro. F. W. Taylor of this Local had the misfortune to fall from a pole on December 16th, and is now in the hospital. He was one of the Bell's trouble men. He let himself be suspended for the non-payment of dues. His excuse was as he was working for the Bell Co. the union wouldn't do him any good, and all manner of arguments and persuasions could not change his mind. He must have been connected by one of the Bell's anti-union missionaries. I guess the \$5.00 a week sick benefits which we pay would help some if the union would not do him any good other-ways. I was going to the hospital and mention the fact to him, but one of the brothers said I should not add insult to injury, so I let the matter drop.

We intend to have another open meeting in the near future. Bro. Potter told me to invite the wives, mothers, and sweethearts of the men and try and convert them. In that way we may be able to do more good with the men.

Our worthy president, Bro. H. W. Dull, give the boys the slip and was married to one of New Cumberland's fairest. May good luck, long life and much happiness be his.

Bro. Walter Hawbecker is all smiles. Its a little (red head.) Walt says its a chip off the old block.

I will close, with best wishes for the I. B. E. W. at large.

J. E. ADAMS,

Recording Secretary.

P. S.—Have just been informed there will be quite a bit of outside work doing in the spring. Here's hoping there will be.

THE KID.

San Antonio No. 60.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I will try and start the New Year by writing a letter in the WORKER, and hope to have one from No. 60 every month.

We elected officers for the first six months of 1908 and had a large attendance. The following is a list of officers elected: President, Geo. C. Norris; Vice President, James Ashley; Recording Secretary, Claud Converse; Financial Secretary, W. C. Joliffe (Kokomo); Treasurer, W. A. White; Press Secretary, Geo. C. Norris.

We also elected an able set of trustees, and minor officers, and we expect to boom our local up and make it a notable one on the list. Work is very slack here; quite a number of inside men are idle and a few linemen. We haven't any prospect of work picking up until spring. This part of Texas has a drawback that makes it hard to get work at living wages, caused by people coming here for their health, and working for little or nothing to help pay living expenses, and living comes high here.

We are trying to help the floating brothers by keeping a place for them to eat and sleep, so if you are hungry when you strike our city ask for a meal, or if tired, a bed, but your card must be up-to-date, for we believe in paying up so our secretary can have our name on the Per Capita Sheet when it goes to the Grand Office, and our Secretary (Old Kokomo) won't wait for anyone.

Brother Swor was in our city on a little missionary work for the I. B. We are always glad to see him at our meetings.

I will close by saying to all the members of the I. B. E. W. to start the newly elected officers off by attending every meeting and having a voice there. You who have never held office don't know how it encourages the officers when there is a large attendance, and it makes better union men of you. Don't talk on the street corners but go up to the hall and talk.

I would like to hear from the members of 217, especially Bros. Schock and Dodge. I guess you remember Texas.

Geo. C. NORRIS, P. S.,

121 Huisache Ave.

Butte No. 65.

It has been some time since Local Union 65 has had a communication published. It was my misfortune to be elected press secretary for the ensuing term so I presume it is my duty to submit the following notation of events and conditions in our jurisdiction. The following is a list of officers elected for the ensuing term: President, John McLeode; Vice President, L. S. Petit; Financial Secretary, W. E. Medhurst; Recording Secretary, Ernest Shelby; Treasurer, Carl Houson; Press Secretary, F. W. Utter; Inspectors, J. R. Crofford, E. Gould; Trustees, E. C. Carlson, six months; James Bateman, 12 months; L. Mullholland, twelve months. Local Union 65 will hold its next regular meeting in the new permanent headquarters at Carpenters' Hall, January 3, 1908. It is quite possible that there is some of the members of the brotherhood that has forgotten or doesn't know that we are having a diametrical difference of opinion with the R. M. Bell Telephone Co. in everything that concerns wages, working conditions and electrical workers in this intermountain district and I am glad we can say we are entering the new year and the eighth month of this strike with renewed ambition, firmer determination and a better organization than when we entered the fight the 21st of May. It has been a hard struggle enjoined early in the strike by the Federal court. Some of our members and members of other organizations have been cited into court and convicted of contempt, and imprisoned, all of which has cost us considerable sums of money for the defense of our our brothers. On the 17th of December there were six strikebreakers supposed to be linemen, principally detectives and kids, were deported by an unknown aggregation of citizens, which was the cause of more arrests and citations in the Federal court.

Now, brothers, we are living under what might be called a government by injunction, and if this condition becomes general and corporations are allowed to use the injunction to fight organized labor we will have to get busy at the ballot box or our organizations will soon be disrupted, because our boycott methods are inefficient to cope with injunctions, and now is the time to get busy. Build up your local organization, help build up every other organization, for it is our material interest to do so for the protection of those dependent upon us. Most of our members that are here are working at present and at this writing we do not ask for any outside financial assistance, but we ask that every member of the I. B. E. W. remember his obligation and if one of No. 65's members passes your way treat him just as you were

treated if you ever landed in Butte in a similar condition.

F. W. UTTER,
Press Secretary.

Butte, Montana.

Syracuse No. 79.

To all officers and members a happy and prosperous New Year. I will try and get in a few words to let the brothers know how we are in Syracuse, N. Y. Work has not improved here since I wrote last. One of our most loyal members, Chas. Eastwood, had a bad accident which cost him the sight of his left eye. As I understand it Bro. Eastwood was splicing a guy for the Trolley Co., when the guy broke and one of the strands of wire pierced the left eye. Local Union 79 is making arrangements for a dance for the benefit of Bro. Eastwood to be held in the near future. Will try and have more about it in the next issue of the WORKER. As last night was our last meeting in 1907 the boys got busy and the following brothers were elected for the ensuing term: President, W. H. Clissen; Vice President, H. Macey; Recording Secretary, Geo. Columbus; Financial Secretary, J. W. Hillman; Treasurer, J. Walsh; First Inspector, J. Keef; Second Inspector, D. Delaney; Foreman, F. J. Boulster; Eighteen Month Trustee, W. H. Clissen; Twelve Month Trustee, J. M. Fitzgerald; Six Month Trustee, Geo. Columbus; Press Secretary, J. W. Hillman. Bro. J. M. Fitzgerald is Chairman of our Entertainment Committee for Installation night and has promised the boys something new. I will try and let you all know what it is later. Bro. L. L. Donnelly, our district organizer, is with us and we have great hopes of gathering in some of the boys between now and March 1st.

Hoping this will be in time for the next WORKER I beg to remain with best wishes to all, Fraternal yours,

J. W. HILLMAN,
Press Secretary.

Syracuse, N. Y.

Norfolk No. 80.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Allow me on the part of Local Union No. 80 to address a few lines to the I. B. E. W., and more especially to friends of No. 80 all over this country (I know Norfolk occupies a warm place in the hearts of all those who visited this city in the past year and a half) to let them know we meet at the same place as usual. That our meetings are not as long or as interesting as heretofore. That the Exposition work is almost completed, Bro. Frank Cool being the only electrical worker employed on the grounds, at the present time. That all the other brothers who were employed on the Exposition grounds with the exception of a small

number have taken out traveling cards and taken their departure. We are still working under adverse circumstances, and work is scarce even at that. But by the time the spring work opens up I think we will be able to report more favorable conditions. MICHAEL GILL,

Box 232, Norfolk, Va.

Local Union No. 80.

Newark No. 87.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a few lines to inform the members of the I. B. E. W. that No. 87 is doing business every Friday night. We have a membership of about 200 and if any of the brothers of the I. B. E. W. should be so fortunate as to be in Newark, N. J., on a Friday night they should not miss attending our meeting. The meetings are attended by a large number of members and often it is necessary to secure more chairs to accommodate the attendance. The reports of officers and committees are always thorough and full of interest and at the present time there is a movement on foot which, if the same materializes will add greatly to the membership and the finances of No. 87, as it is the desire to advance the welfare of the local by all we thoroughly expect that this will succeed.

Owing to the stringency in the money market and nearly every company is laying off men, No. 87 has had her share up to date but those brothers who are fortunate enough to have employment do not forget to lend a helping hand to those who need assistance.

The officers for the year of 1908 have been duly elected and nearly all have been tried and found true (have been re-elected to the same office), therefore we feel assured that No. 87 can look forward to another successful and prosperous year as an efficient and thorough set of officers is the key note to success to any and all organizations.

Our President, Bro. J. Collins, who has served several terms in that office received the unanimous vote of the body and the boys were so highly delighted that they presented him with a handsome and valuable remembrance of their appreciation and good will. We all wish Bro. Collins success.

We had the pleasure of electing an able and efficient body of representatives (3) to represent No. 87 in the Essex Trade Council and feel perfectly confident that our interests will be looked to thoroughly and faithfully and that we will receive prompt and thorough reports of any and all actions taken by that body.

One of the great faults in Locals and in fact nearly all organizations is that of neglect of representatives, officers and committees to make full and accurate reports of their special duties to which they

may have been appointed. Such actions always causes the members to lose interest in the workings of the organization and then when interest lags the attendance to the meetings becomes small.

No. 87 has been fortunate in the past by having efficient and capable members selected to perform such duties, and therefore causes such a large attendance at each meeting.

From the present outlook in this section work in the electrical line will be dull for the next two or three months but then it will become necessary for the company's to cause the men to work overtime to get up with their work, but during such dull times we think as all good brothers should, we should assist as far as in our power those brothers who are out of employment through no fault of their own. The brothers of this and all other union organizations should bear in mind the necessity of using union goods and demanding that they receive them or not take any, as that is assisting each other in all lines of labor and although not felt in any one locality will in time be felt throughout the wide land as we all know that the constant drop of water will wear away the hardest stone.

Trusting this may meet the notice and approval of all and wishing all the boys of No. 87 who may not be able to be with us owing to residing in other cities and towns all kinds of success, also wishing the same to the members of the Order at large, I remain,

H. E.

Hornell No. 92.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I hope you may have room in our WORKER for the following roll call for 1908: R. Burdick, President and Trustee; H. T. Kelley, Vice President and Press Secretary; C. R. Harrison, Recording Secretary; C. E. Wade, Financial Secretary and Business Agent; John Hale, Inspector; W. S. Chaffee, Foreman; H. S. Brown, Treasurer and Trustee; H. L. Miller, Trustee.

I am sorry to say that inasmuch as the readers of the ELECTRICAL WORKER do not very often hear from this part of the States, I have very little to say that would interest my readers, but as this is my first offense I hope the brothers will excuse me as being a first-class press secretary, but each month I will try and send what little news we have on hand. I think a great many of our readers will agree with me that it is hard to get news where things are so dull. Things are so dull in and around Local 92 that we have a hard time keeping together. If it was not for a loyal quorum we could not hold up. As it is we have to double up the offices on some brothers in order to keep going. I would like to say for the benefit of several brothers who took

cards out of No. 92 and has not turned them in or had them renewed had better for their own benefit set up and notice. Work is very dull around these diggings just now but I think it will open up soon.

Wishing all good brothers a prosperous and happy 1908 I will ring off.

Fraternally yours,

H. T. KELLEY, Press Sec.

Hornell, N. Y., Dec. 30, 1907.

East Liverpool No. 93.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

A letter from Local Union 93 no doubt will be a surprise to some of the brothers and if not, it will be to our JOURNAL.

Well, brothers, work is not very plentiful here at present and a few brothers are out of work, but things look brighter for after the 1st of the year. But I will say that we have had some good luck. Last month we presented a scale to the East Liverpool Traction and Light Company and also to the Westinghouse Church and Pier Contracting Company for an increase in wages. We had Worthy J. J. Reid, our 1st Grand Vice President with us in our difficulty. We must give all due credit to Bro. Reid, as we had several conferences with General Manager J. C. Rothery and could not get any increase at all, but after Bro. Reid had a few good conversations with Mr. Rothery he did manage to get all line-men 25 cents of a raise, with the foremen included, at a nine-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.

Well, Brothers, it is a credit to the Brotherhood in general for having such a brother as James J. Reid as a Grand Official, for, too much credit can not be given him for the way in which he handled our difficulty to the satisfaction of all concerned, and he also gave some very good advice to all members of Local 93, and also at the last District Council Meeting; he was here and gave some very good points of advice.

Well, brothers, Local Union 93 is taking in a brother now and then, and have got about all the men in our business in our folds with the exception of a few apprentices and will say that I have their applications signed up to be taken in after the first of the New Year 1908.

We have elected our new set of officers for the coming term which are as follows: President, John C. Holland; Vice President, H. Hetzel; Financial Secretary, C. D. Lentz; Recording Secretary, C. O'Connell; First Inspector, J. C. Smith; Second Inspector, R. L. Cowls.

Well, as I have taken a great deal of space I guess I will close. Wishing good luck to all brothers, I am

Fraternally yours,

JOHN C. HOLLAND,

Press Secretary.

329 W. Fourth St., East Liverpool, O.

Worcester No. 96.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local 96 is still living and doing business, although we have not been heard from for a long time.

Our meetings are being well attended, much better than ever before, but there are a few members that we never see at a meeting. They are missing a good thing for Bro. Rodovanovich is giving us something every night.

As for work, all of the boys are working except a few; there is no big jobs in sight or being talked of.

Our membership is about the same as one year ago. We have initiated more the past year than any year before, but many have taken traveling cards, so we have made no great net gain in members. Our attendance was never as good as this winter.

I suppose all of the brothers have noticed the improvement in the WORKER the past year. If you have not, just look up one of 1904 or 1905 and read it.

In this city we are and have been for a year without a Building Trades Central body of any kind, and all trades are feeling the effects of it; something must be done very soon.

I am sorry to see Local 485 is not doing as well as they should. The linemen seem to be too busy to attend meetings. I see the Telephone let several go last Saturday night, with more to go soon.

S. A. STROUT.

Jacksonville No. 100.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Wishing you one and all a happy and prosperous New Year. The old chestnut, "nothing doing." But it is true here, at least for union men. This is a wide open shop town in regards to unionism, so our brothers from the Prohibition states had better re-read this article. Poor old Georgia. Think of the "hikers" and the inside men who used to shoot the Anheuser rifles. Well, cheer up, boys, we won't have to give that time more adage. "Booze put me on the hummer." Has ever any of you heard it, the latest gag now is "had to leave on account of a woman." Fair woman, man's best friend, let her be bad or good. She was once pure and good and some fiend brought the bad to the front. Boys, take your medicine. Above all things have respect for all womankind. Don't knock; if you can't help her, don't harm her. Boys, be men—be union men. Come south if you will, take it as you find it and blame none but yourself. Deposit your card with us and when you get ready to leave own up that it is one of the best places you ever struck and that you make out better here than you do at home.

Again I call attention to all locals that all men who are south should be made

to produce cards from where they have been, as the open shops are filled with card men and when they leave and return home they will say there was no local where I was at. If any of them come from Jacksonville, Fla., tell them they are liars.

Now let us resolve to get together and work to build up all of our locals. Be careful of applicants, investigate them, cut out their hard luck stories and make our members proud of their membership in our brotherhood, for we have one of the grandest in the country, so let us all pull together and in 1909 there will be only one open shop and that will be —.

Fraternally,

E. J. McDONNELL.

Jacksonville, Fla.

Boston No. 104.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, M. Birmingham; Vice President, J. Barrio; Recording Secretary, J. M. McEwan; Financial Secretary, E. B. Connors; Treasurer, D. McDonald; First Inspector, E. Anderson; Second Inspector, F. McDonald; Foremen, J. Tanner; Trustee for 18 Months, F. McDonald; Delegates N. E. D. C., M. Birmingham, E. B. Connors, J. M. McEwan, M. A. Murphy; Executive Board, J. Guilfoyle, J. I. Harris, J. McLeod, M. A. Murphy, A. Smith; Delegates to Boston C. L. U., E. B. Connors, B. M. Dionne, L. Grant, J. Guilfoyle, F. McDonald, J. M. McEwan, M. A. Murphy, W. R. Reid, A. Smith; Business Agent, E. B. Connors.

Denver No. 121.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As it is nearing the New Year, I will endeavor to let the brothers know that we are still doing business in the old way. We are picking up a stranger once in a while and bringing them to the front.

Things are kind of dull here at present but think they will pick up by the first of the year, at least I hope so for we have quite a few idle brothers here. The Bell Telephone Co. laid off all the union men but about four and the light company does not have but three and four men on each wagon.

Well as time is short and L. U. 479 and 121 are going to consolidate on January 2, 1908, I will close, with best wishes to the I. B. E. W. P. P. WIENANEL.

Helena No. 185.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Another letter from No. 185 to let the boys know there is still nothing doing in our part of the world. Our strike is still on against the Rocky Mountain Bell Co., and has been since

May 21, 1907, and we are in hopes that a settlement will soon be made. For the past few weeks the situation has looked very bright and looks good yet, while tomorrow may not look so good.

The money stringency of the past few weeks has crippled work throughout the west greatly; even pick and shovel work is at a premium. There is positively no work at all of any kind and the country is flooded with the laboring class of people who are absolutely unable to find work of any kind.

In the past month there have been thousands and thousands of men laid off in all kinds of work. The construction of new railroads through this country have laid a great many of the men off and those they retained they cut their wages two bits on the day.

We would advise not only the Electrical Worker but every laboring man not to pay any attention to circulars sent from the west to all parts of our country saying men are needed on works of all kind through the west and wages are the highest.

Any brother following the advice of these circulars and comes west he will be one of the sick ones. He would be too sick for a doctor to prescribe for.

With best wishes and a happy New Year to all brothers, I remain,

WILL A. FARRINGTON,

Financial Secretary.

Box 267, Helena, Mont.

Memphis No. 192.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Electrical Workers Union No. 192 was called to order by Bro. Evans. Our president, as usual, being absent, the regular order of business was carried out and we all spent a joyous evening.

No. 474's inside men gave us an invitation to a smoker and banquet and it went off nicely, as everything was in readiness and we all spent a joyous evening. They initiated a candidate. Bro. E. E. Hoskinson, Pres. D. C. was with us and gave a very interesting talk and much good advice, our trouble with the Cum. Tel. and Tel. Co. being called off. Bro. Brasfield was initiated into the brotherhood on our last meeting, a lad whom we have been long wanting and we know he will make us a true and loyal and good member. Bro. I. F. Kalm of the Musician's union called on us and gave us quite an interesting talk of the good of others, and their union, and I strongly impress it on every brother of this great band of brotherhood to work together in the interest and spirit of brotherhood and fellow workman.

CHAS. MCKAY, Press Secy.

58 N. Front St.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 22, 1907.

Seattle No. 202.

As I have never seen anything in print from Local Union No. 202, I have concluded that it is about time that we have a word or two to say so as the brothers may know that we are alive and still doing business. We are small in numbers yet, but large in hope and are preparing to start in on the new year right, and educate as many of the unenlightened as possible, and we have quite a bunch of material to work on as there are several whom have never had the true light of union brotherhood shine in on their darkened vision as yet; but we are going after them and bring them into the ranks. We have been considerably handicapped in the past through the inattention of the brothers who seem to think that their whole duty is done if they pay in their dues and drop in once in three or five months and see if the faithful few are still in attendance and doing business, but they are beginning to wake up and look around and to see that if anything is accomplished that all must be up and doing and that by perseverance and good hard work only can we obtain the wages and working conditions for which we are striving. We have been ably assisted in our efforts to build up our local by both Local Union No. 77 and No. 217, and especially by Bro. Schock of 217, who has certainly worked overtime in the interests of No. 202 and we wish to express our thanks through the columns of the ELECTRICAL WORKER for their help in our time of need. Neither wages nor working conditions are all that could be desired here but they will come "in the sweet bye and bye" and will be appreciated all the more when we have obtained them.

Work is not overly plentiful here this winter, but if any floating brother should drift out this way we will try to do all we can for him but he must have the "green goods" on him and up-to-date, as we will not accept cards thirty days or more in arrears; so brothers if you hope to be welcome here look to it that your cards are dated far enough ahead.

I was very much interested in the letter of Bro. P. H. Quinn of Local Union No. 560 in the ELECTRICAL WORKER for November and can say amen to the statement that no man is great or wise enough to control another man's means of life, liberty and happiness, and that the day will come when a man will be judged a man whether he labors with his hands or brain, and that no man will be compelled to be entirely subject to another's will simply because the other man has the right of might composed of the dollars he may have to his credit, and surely the day will come when life, liberty and happiness will be considered of more importance than mere money. But before that day dawns we have all got to learn the

lesson of unselfishness, as we see in the every-day walks of life the employee of today the employer of tomorrow and though as the employee of today he was the worst kicker at the indignities he received, as an employer he is the worst ever and instead of remembering the days when these indignities were heaped upon him and trying to make the lives of those under him more pleasant he takes the advantage of his position and abuses his employees. Though this is not always the case, we find it too often so.

And another thing that too often happens and which we see every day is this: We are not always ready to give everybody full credit for what they do and that it is done unselfishly. We are always looking for something wrong and that when one is unduly active that he has an ax to grind, and that he has some selfish motive behind his actions which we do not see; but this is wrong and I think we should always be ready to give a man credit for all he does and not be ready to criticise any one's actions until we are sure beyond a doubt that what he does is not done in an entirely unselfish manner and I think that the best school of unselfishness is the union of workers, as the necessity of the union is caused by selfishness of employers, and we are brought face to face with it every day and not only do we see the selfishness of employers but how often in our local union do we see a brother who is a little more active than the rest dubbed too officious and is criticised accordingly.

Well, brothers, when I started this letter I did not intend it as a sermon but as I see it is tending that way I will cut it out, as I hope the first spark from No. 202 will escape the waste paper basket.

S. K. DUNNING, F. Secy.,
713 North 31st, Sta. B.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 9, 1907.

No. 209

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

This local is still doing business the same old way as every brother that has happened this way has found us doing. It has been nearly three years since this local has had a letter in the WORKER. It is not because we have not elected a press secretary; it is carelessness on the part of the officer doing his duty, as we had a brother known as Dick Smith who talked himself hoarse to be press secretary but his fountain pen was always full of something that was not ink so we never see any of his writing.

Well, we have had another election of officers. Our old boss Dixby Brown has stepped out of the president's chair and it is being filled by Bro. A. Law. Little Willie Burns is his able assistant and Dective Partlett still holds down recording secretary and Prof. E. Redinger, our financial secretary, was reelected. Bro.

C. Redinger has gone south for his health and I will say any of the brothers meeting with him will find the "green goods" with him. He is A-No. 1 at all times. Bro. Frank Law tells me he has gone in the milk business and all of the boys wish him success, although he has not asked for a withdrawal card, which is about the first thing the most of them think of as soon as they start in other kind of work.

Now, brothers, for the District Council of the Fourth District Convention to be held at Indianapolis on January 27. Every local in this District should have its delegate there to attend to its business and not let a few locals have all of the say as to what you shall do the next year or have a kick coming because they didn't do this or that the way it ought to have been done. If every local would attend to it we would have a better understanding of what is doing in this District.

Work is at a standstill here at present. There are several brothers out of work at last report and no prospects. They say the circuit is closed so I will close this circuit. C. C. CLUGSTON, P. S.

Decatur No. 242.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a word from No. 242. Here we are writing for the first issue of the 1908 WORKER.

As this is our first letter since we have organized here, we thought we would start in the first of the year.

Times are fairly good here as all of the boys are at work at present and a few floating brothers have landed a job here.

The Independent Telephone Co. are going to put in an automatic exchange in here in the spring. It will be a card job throughout. If any brothers come this way in the spring, be sure and have a paid up card if you want to go to work for the Independent Co.

There is about 9 out of 25 of the 242 boys attend every meeting.

Now brothers, we should all get together and have a good meeting once and attend regularly. It will show that you appreciate your officers time. If anything comes up, do not ask some other brother what came up last meeting night, but always attend your meeting, then if anything comes up and you don't like it, get right up then and make your holler; don't wait till you get out on the street and talk about it. That is the worst thing a man can do.

Well, brothers, as a few of us has worked pretty hard to get 242, would like to see all the brothers turn out every meeting night and make this a strong Local and have a large Banner with 242 printed in it hanging over Decatur, as there are several say they will try and

bust it up if they can, but we do not think they will cut the mustard.

Well, as it is getting quitting time I will throw my tools in the tool box for this time. W. F. H.

East Mauch Chunk No. 244.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I hope you will have spare space for a few lines from L. U. No. 244. As my first and last letter in November journal did not reach us fellows yet, I don't know why, whether it was because our financial secretary was absent last meeting or not.

Well, we are doing business at the same old stand, same old faces just about enough to hold our charter, with quite a few hanging on the rear.

When L. U. No. 244 organized we had a bunch of good union men; later on one of the numbers dropped out and since that time we have been having quite a few hanging on and dropping out.

We have a committee appointed to investigate such cases and we hope the new year will wake 'em up and get them around so they can see what is going on and help push it along. I think we are lame in only meeting once a month, we should meet at least twice a month for when we held two per month before we certainly had larger crowds. We have been discussing that several times and we think a trial won't do any harm. Also wish to say to any of the brothers that read this, if they will kindly look back to the last one of our members that we lost who had an injustice done him by one of the brothers that they and all of us should try our best to bet that ex-member back again, for he was and always has been one of L. U. No. 244's best members and the biggest majority of us know that to be a fact and he is to this day true and loyal. This it over brothers, you all know it as well as I do.

The trouble is our Local is not strict enough when there is an injustice done. Best to hold a good man if you possibly can. Our newly elected officers are: President, H. Snyder; Vice President, H. Reinhammer; Treasurer, F. O. Bauchspies; Financial Secretary, W. W. Brown, Box 293; Recording Secretary, G. W. Mummey, Box 194; Foreman, Leo. Rinkebach; First Inspector, Thos. Tracy; Second Inspector, J. P. Tracy; Trustees, J. P. Tracy, H. Ballet, Jno. Bing.

Hoping you will have space for same.

G. W. M.

Providence No. 258.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I wish to call your attention to a little matter that is being worked out by a former member of this Local, Wm. Barrett, No. 62309, left here November, 1906. He did not take traveling card. His last payment was for October, 1906. I heard from him next at Boston where he got a loan

of \$10.00 from No. 104. This was in November, 1906. I received a letter from Local No. 80 yesterday stating he called on them and stating that he had lost his ticket and money on some railroad. They kindly loaned him \$15.00. This was some time in the summer. Now I don't understand where he can get stamps so easy for he flashed a due book paid up to January, 1908. He did not get them from this local but this is the one that should issue them from the fact that he is in debt to us for fourteen months. I am surprised at this fellow acting in this manner for while he stayed here he was one of the best, always working for the interest of the Brotherhood. I think it would be well to notify all Locals to be on their guard against this man and take up that due book if possible. It is a shame to use the columns of our WORKER for this class of news but it is about the only way to put a stop to this class of work. Hoping you will attend to same, I am, D. J. SPELLMAN,
183 Plain St.

Hammond No. 280.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As we have not had a piece in the WORKER for a long time, I take great pleasure in informing all who are interested in our welfare that No. 280 is still alive and hustling. We are holding our meetings on the first and third Fridays, but, as it is necessary for us to change meeting places, we expect to have a different day after the first of the year.

Have had a number of cases of sickness during the year but at present are very fortunate in having all brothers in good condition. We hope all Locals are enjoying the same good luck.

It is with the deepest of sorrow that I wish to announce that on August 19th, we had the misfortune to lose brother Arthur Adams. He became crossed up on two primaries while working on a corner pole which same resulted in his instantaneous death. We sincerely mourn his loss as Brother Adams was very popular with the boys and always willing to lend a helping hand.

We wish to inform all brothers that work is pretty scarce around here at present. All companies have laid off everybody they possibly could and do not know when work will open up again. We are always glad to receive a traveling brother though, so don't fail to look us up if you are passing through Hammond. Very near all the brothers are working and hope to be able to say "all" in a short time.

At our last meeting, we elected our officers for the ensuing term. The following were the successful candidates: Duke McCarthy, President; D. C. Stein, Vice President; Tom Lake, Recording Secretary; Frank D. Cooley, Financial Secretary. Let us join together and wish them

success as they are all worthy of the same.

Wishing all brothers success and happiness, will now close, remaining,

F. W. FRECH,
Press Secretary.

Oakland No. 283.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 283 extends to all members of the I. B. E. W. a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, and now I am sorry to state that the prospects for work is not very bright at the present time, but I am hoping that the new year will bring with it better times than we have had for the past few months.

At this writing none of the companies on this coast are doing any construction work except the Home Tel. Co., they are doing some construction work in San Francisco, but not enough to keep our members busy.

I trust that other districts are more fortunate in having plenty of work to do. The weather here has been rather unpleasant for the last month, as this is our rainy season in California, still we have not been having the usual amount of rain. I am glad to say that so far as our locals here are concerned they are doing good work. Our meetings are well attended and the members are as a rule, taking great interest in the meetings; this applies to Oakland and Frisco locals. No. 537 of Frisco is getting along fine and have about all the outside men lined up. No. 6's trouble is still on but I am in hopes of a settlement being effected soon. No. 283, outside, and No. 595, inside, locals are doing well and harmony prevails among the members which you all know is one of the essentials to progress.

Now brothers, you will be informed of any changes which may take place here and when the work opens up we will notify you through the WORKER.

As our election of officers will take place at our next meeting and we have the best that can be nominated, I look for an interesting election and now as this may possibly be my last letter as press secretary of No. 283, I wish to thank the editor for the many favors shown me in the past and also the members of the I. B. in general.

While I may not write as press secretary of the local, I will still send a letter at times and request the editor to publish same. I take great pleasure in reading the many letters in the WORKER, and I trust that during the coming new year there will be more locals send in letters to the WORKER.

Now, Mr. Editor and Brothers, I will close by wishing for each and every one of you every blessing that can be bestowed on man.

HUGH MURKIN,
Press Secretary.

Auburn No. 300.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I know that the brothers will be surprised to heart that Local No. 300 writes a few lines to start in the New Year doing business right. Well brothers, work is rather slack here. The Trolley has laid off all but two linemen. The Bell is doing a little work. Brother Siran from Local No. 79 is in town with his men putting in underground. The Light company is not doing much. The Independent is fairly good, but hope that work will be better in the spring. It is quite dull here. There is a few visiting brothers here from No. 79.

Brother Murphy, Springer, Bawn, they are working for the Bell telephone.

Brother Donley was in town looking at the situation of things.

There is a lot of brothers that pay dues all right but forget the first and third Friday is meeting night. The brothers here don't seem to like to come to the meetings; we have got as nice a hall as there is in the city.

Well under our new election of officers I hope the brothers will take more interest in the union matters.

Well brothers I will have to close, as the Niagara Power has just gone out. Will try to do better next time. Wishing the Brotherhood and boys success and a happy New Year to all.

E. I. HOSKINS,
Press Secretary.

East St. Louis No. 309.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I take pleasure in writing you these few lines to let you know that Local 309 is still among the living as we have elected a new set of officers. I wish to state that 309 has elected Bro. John Pegram as President; Bro. Alex. Cunningham, as Vice President; Leonard Sims as Financial Secretary to succeed himself, also B. S. (Speaker) Ried as Recording Secretary to succeed himself. Local No. 309 is all right, all members are enjoying good health except 1 or 2 brothers. Bro. John C. Campbell who was hurt last February 23d is getting along nicely and will soon be able to be around with us. We have at present a great many brothers who are out of work, but I guess it is the same all over the country. The Light Co. has made two grand lay offs and have only 5 linemen working at present, both telephone companies are at a stand still as far as work is concerned and would advise all brothers who are in hard luck not to hit East St. Louis, as things are dull as h—ll. We had a great time voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Some were hailed with great rejoicing and others were received with long faces. Some caused lengthy discussions which in itself was good for us. On our last night

of the ballot we were favored with the presence of our G. V. P. of our District, Bro. J. P. Noonan—his smiling face and pleasant manners of speech helped to enliven things.

We are proud to say that we have not had a death in the past year. In the last year 309 has had a good harvest as far as new members are concerned. We have initiated 57 new members and that is not so bad is it? And I wish to say that all the boys like to read the WORKER. There is printed in our WORKER some of the best reading for union men that can be found any where. And there is one article I would like to see published in the WORKER again and printed in red ink and that is the article called "The Trade Unionist," which is in my mind the best I ever have seen and if every brother would read it and take it as it lays down the law we as union men would be a bright and shining example for the world and every one would say that the electrical workers are the best and also the most strict union men to be found. Another article I have noticed is the sermon on the "Union Label," which can not be beat.

As this is my first attempt as a correspondent, I will close, hoping it will be received as it is meant with the best wishes and kindest regards, I am,

Yours fraternally,
LEONARD SIMS,
Press Secretary.

Paris No. 320.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As we have not had any news in the WORKER from No. 320, will say she is still having her ups and downs and at present she has the downs, but expect to be up again soon.

Work is not very good here at present. The Citizens Tel. Co. has been doing some work but have about finished. The Light Co. is not doing anything. The Texas and Oklahoma Tel. Co. are just completing some toll lines out of this place. We have been having trouble in getting members up to meetings. But expect to have a full house next meeting night as refreshments are going to be served in the old fashion way. (Out of a keg.) We have nothing but open shops here and there is always a feed left on our meal ticket for any brother who has the green goods. I would not advise any of the brothers to blow this way looking for work as work is going to be as scarce as horse's toe tails. We are taking in a few new members and making noises like we were going to do something sometime if that sometime ever gets to be our time, we will show them that No. 320 is still on the map.

The contractors here are keeping busy working a few men.

I will stop before the amperage gets too high and blows a fuse so will dead end with best wishes to all brothers, I am,
HOUSTON B. HOCKLER,
Press Secretary.

Ft. Smith No. 346.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Business is not very good for our craft here now, only one big job in town that is the Bell Co., and they only work a card man long enough to get to "let him out."

So any brother thinking of coming here had better pass by the other companys are not doing anything now.

We get a new member every meeting night, sometimes two, so the Brotherhood at large may know that we are still under the head of "Good of the Union."

Well as there is nothing else of interest to the Brotherhood, will blow the fuse.
LOCAL No. 346.

Austin No. 520.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As it has been a long time since a letter has been in the WORKER from No. 520, thought I would dope out one. Things are looking a little brighter around this village of large white hats. The South Western Tel. & Tel. Co. are doing a little work here but will have it finished by the first of February, 1908. But as a rule things are very quiet in and around the long horn state as well as the rest of the U. S. A. Several of our good brothers have blown in here lately among them Thos. Hyman and J. J. Klima from "Hinky Dink's" town; Bro. Buz Belding from the land of earthquakes accompanied by Eddie Couley from No. 193 on the Bowery N. Y.

Work on the inside is rather slow at present, and a few of the boys are idle.

Wishing the Brotherhood success, I remain,
B. E. T.

Austin No. 520.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At our last meeting we had election of officers and as I was elected press secretary, I will try my best to let my brothers know how this young local is progressing.

For a time our meetings were very poor and the boys did not seem to take an interest, but lately a few of us got out among the boys and gingered things up which had a good effect.

For the last four or five meetings the attendance has been good, we are taking in a new member every meeting or so, one was initiated at the last meeting.

The S. W. Tel. Co. here have been doing quite a lot of cable work and as you well know they are on the fair list, but they have been working card men, there was eight card men on their pay roll last month which sounds good to union men,

as heretofore all card men were turned down. They would not employ anything but a rat. All the electrical shops here with the exception of one, are on the fair list, but we expect in the future to bring it across.

The electric plant here is run by the City, and the men at work for them are not union men, but we have one card man that has gone to work for them and I think he will try to bring them over.

Hoping you will have space in the WORKER for this attempt at a letter, will try and do better in the future.

J. A. FRANCIS, Press Secretary.

Edmonton No. 544.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a few lines from No. 544 to let the Brothers know we are still alive, but very weak from the effects of our members being let go one by one. Both the Light and Telephone have laid all their men off with the exceptions of three or four and inside wiremen about the same so brothers its the same old story, steer clear of Edmonton. (Nothing doing.)

Just a word to those brothers that are afflicted with that dreaded disease non-attendance. We know there are many especially in No. 544. As for a cure we couldn't even suggest one for No. 544 has exerted all her efforts towards that cause but without success and I think the members who never attends our meetings never knows anything of his Locals movements, never thinks its compulsory to attend them or won't until it is, but enjoys all the benefits obtained by the willing few is little better than the (?).

Well brothers you know our new by-laws are in effect and every time you miss a meeting it means a fine, so come up to our lodge room brothers and air your views. We will be pleased to see you. What is more pleasing than a lodge room with a full attendance and what looks meaner than a meeting night with hardly enough members for a quorum.

With success to the Brotherhood and wishing all the brothers a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

JAS. J. MALONE, Press Secretary.

Springfield No. 566.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

For the first time I will try and write a few lines to let the outside world know a little about No. 566. About the first of July, 1907, we opened a circuit and closed it about the first of September. During that time we gathered together a fine bunch of boys numbering about seventy, and we are still adding a few new ones now and then. There has been lots of work all summer and is yet. Everything lovely. Bro. J. F. McInnis is our financial secretary and Bro. Harry Dawes is our new president, having suc-

ceeded Bro. André Young. "Freddie" is a little short fellow, but I tell you fellows he is all there, and I must not forget to say, that the best is none too good for "Harry." We have elected a new recording secretary, Bro. Jimmie Groose. Jimmie also is a light boy. At our next meeting, which will be the first Thursday in January, 1908, an electrical question is to be discussed — the losing side pays for the cigars. After the meeting, Bro. John J. Dillon is going to show the boys something about buck and wing and also clog dancing. He is also going to tell the boys about "California's loope."

Now as I don't want to write too much for the first time, I will have to connect 'er up, with best wishes to the Brotherhood.

A. SWINEHAMEER.

Globe No. 579.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

For the information of brothers thinking of coming this way I will try and give a brief sketch of conditions as they exist in our camp. First let me tell you about our local. This local was recently organized by Organizer Bro. Kennedy and every journeyman in the vicinity came in as a charter member to our mixed local. Although some of the members cannot find employment at our trade here they attend meetings twice a month and help support the union nevertheless. We are all right there with both feet at meetings and take an interest in discussing the business of the I. B. There are no non-union electricians around here and we'll see to it that there won't be any. The Old Dominion Cop. Co. employs five men and the present force has been here for about four years, very few changes occur. The city plant averages two men who are usually stayers also. The telephone company averages two men but the wages are poor and as soon as a man can get out he travels.

That's about all there is here so you can size up the situation and understand how we are fixed yourself. Any traveling brother will be cordially received by us.

CHARLES FLEMING, President.

Olympia No. 580.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just to let the boys know that we are alive, I wish you can spare room in the journal to give officers of our little local.

There are but nine journeymen altogether but we have good prospects for the future. We gave a dance in November which cleared \$21.00. Not bad for a start. We elected officers as follows:

President, L. L. Cooper; Vice President, W. S. Adams; Recording Secretary, R. L. McKee; Financial Secretary, W. Hitt; Foreman, B. Adams. Hoping this don't hit the waste basket I will close by stating that work is very dull at this time. R. L. McKee, Sec'y, Pro. Tem.

El Paso No. 583.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At the regular election of officers for Local Union No. 583, the following good men were elected: President, R. S. Murray; Vice President, G. W. Cook; Recording Secretary, C. S. Chalfant; Financial Secretary, C. A. Gilbert; Treasurer, M. Hawk; Foreman, C. I. Boquit; First Inspector, Julius Muelhendorf; Second Inspector, J. E. Warren; Delegate to District Council, Henry Burton; Trustee, H. Young; Executive Board, Bros. Chalfant, Hawk and Burton. We have been organized now three months. We have a membership of about eighty. The past three months have been devoted principally to perfecting our organization, such as drafting by-laws, trying out men for various offices and committees, studying unionism and doing missionary work, so that we are starting the New Year with a very promising organization.

We propose to adhere to the "Speak softly but carry a big stick," policy. We fully realize that the "largest stick" is the confidence and good will of the public.

Work here as elsewhere is less plentiful since the financial difficulty. Several members here are out of employment, also on account of our delightful winter climate a great many transient craftsmen come here at this season to escape the rigors of the northern winter. These men come with the expectation of earning their bare expenses, either at the trade or at common labor. For the benefit of all who contemplate such a winter excursion, we wish to state, that a white man has very little chance of earning money at common labor for the reason that the Mexicans have practically a monopoly. A white man can not compete with them in price. Living is usually expensive here now, and under normal conditions is at least ten per cent higher than at Cincinnati, in view of which No. 583 is confronted with a problem, the solution of which has baffled us thus far.

What is our duty to indigent itinerant brothers? We would like to have expressions on this subject from other Locals. We have had a great deal of discussion in our own local as to the advisability of providing free entertainment for these brothers at the expense of the local treasury. The arguments for such a measure are based mainly upon two principles: moral duty and policy.

The arguments founded upon the former hypothesis are too intricate and go too deeply into the study of scientific philanthropy and may be answered by the statement that the Local Union is not primarily a philanthropic institution. The argument that it is policy to take care of indigent brothers, however, is not so easily set aside. Those who

take that view of the question argue in this wise: "Self preservation is the first law of nature! If a man is hungry, desire for food becomes so great as to outweigh all other considerations, so that the man is quite likely to disregard rules and wage scales, and put his labor on the market at cut rates to the detriment of all others of the craft.

And, since it is the purpose of the union to appease by every legitimate means, every tendency to lower the wages of its members, and since the logical way to prevent a hungry men from working for less than the scale is to remove the temptation, to-wit: Give him food.

Therefore, aside from all considerations of brotherly love it is to the financial interest of the local to expend money for the care of destitute brothers."

Those who oppose the measure contend, first, that the free distribution of alms is demoralizing and degrading to the recipient, and, second, that one who is improvident to the extent of requiring public aid is an undesirable member of the community and the local union.

They argue that free entertainment would attract this undesirable class, and would further operate to make charges of some who would otherwise be due paying members.

"Therefore," they claim, the argument of their opponents defeats itself because it supports a measure which is at once a cause and a remedy of the same condition. They say "That by eliminating the cause they eliminate the need for the remedy."

It is the purpose of the writer to create if possible a general discussion of this subject in the WORKER.

We wish to announce that at present there is no free entertainment offered to traveling brothers at 583. However, the members individually are as generous as the average working man.

With regards and best wishes, we are,
HENRY BURTON, Press Secretary.

Tulsa No. 584.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As press secretary I will write your valuable WORKER a few lines. This is a brand new local, just started three months, we are doing some good for the I. B. as you all know there is room for improvement in the new state. The Pioneer Tel. & Tel. Co. is a good mark for the nons. We have some nineteen members, and our district organizer has been with us and within the next month we expect to have from thirty to thirty-five.

We are having the same trouble here that other locals are having, some will not attend the meetings, others will not do their duty as committeemen.

Now brothers, don't set back and let others do your work, there is work for

every member in the local, don't put all the work on three or four members because you can, brothers let every member put his shoulder to the wheel, and make 1908 the most prosperous year for local unions.

Times are very quiet here, the light pays \$3.00 for nine. Deshon & Davidson Electric Supplies work from two to four men, at \$3.00 for eight. They have two men who are great postponers, they have been putting me off for two months promising me they would pay up their cards and come in.

The Pioneer works nons altogether, they pay the big sum of from fifty-five to sixty on maintenance work, and \$2.50 on construction work of nine hours.

We have under headway the organization of a central body, and which we expect all local unions to affiliate, then we will be in position to give the Pioneer a run for their money, as poor service puts public sentiment on our side.

Brother H. M. Reed took a travelers from here and he is worthy of a glad hand which ever way he travels.

We have just elected a new set of officers, viz.: J. A. Norris, President, address in care of Fire Department, Theo. Gamble, Vice President, T. C. Statsberg, Financial and Recording Secretary, J. T. Smith, Press Secretary, J. A. Ryan, Treasurer. Hope these few lines will find a way into your valuable WORKER, I am,
J. A. NORRIS, President.

Oakland No. 595.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a few lines to the WORKER to let the brothers know how work is here at Oakland as that is the most important thing just at present. I will say that everything is about as bad as can be in our trade, all work is going ahead slow. We have a large number who are not working and others getting in about half time. I would advise all brothers who have made their minds up to come here to change their mind at once—nothing doing.

I am sorry to say that old No. 6 is still in hot water. I did think at one time that their troubles were about over, but I will have to take it all back so you traveling brothers who read my letters in the November WORKER had better stay away. Building in San Francisco has come to a standstill. Buildings that should have a large number of men of all trades on have no one at work. I am in hopes that by spring every thing will be in full swing again. I will try and keep all brothers informed about work here from month to month. I will say for No. 595 that we have no fence around and if any traveling brother does come this way why we will try and make his stay with us pleasant as possible under the condition we now have.
R. P. GALE.

Wichita No. 598.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Wichita, Kans., Dec. 29, 1907.

Well, as it is time to write again I will turn on the juice and start the ball rolling. Work is a little slack at this writing. The Edison Light and Power Co., and Ind. Tel. Co. have laid off a few men. The inside local has received their charter and have started out very nicely. We wish them success and much good in their effort. Well, the writer has heard from good authority that two of the boys are going to take a better

half into their fold. The writer wishes them a long and happy life. May God bless them in their effort for a better life. We had an oyster supper and a reunion for the members and families of 144. The inside local was invited and with a good attendance we certainly had a good time the 26th.

I will ring off for this time. Wishing a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the brotherhood at large and hoping this will escape the waste basket, I remain,

F. M. ARTERBURN,
Business Agent.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR ACTS.

The following self-explanatory letter will be of interest to all Trade Unionists and friends.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Nov. 9, 1907.

To Chas. Dold, President Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Workers International Union of America, 40 Seminary Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother: The Executive Council at its meeting of this date approved the application made by your organization for the indorsement of its position in declaring the W. W. Kimball Company of Chicago, Ill., as UNFAIR to organized labor, and publication will be made in the December issue of the AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

With best wishes, I remain,

(Signed) SAMUEL GOMPERS,

Pres. A. F. of L.

It might be well to state here that only after due investigation and attempt at settlement was the above action taken.

Labors most prominent leaders took

part in the investigation and effort at settlement, to-wit: Samuel Gompers, President A. M. of L.; John B. Lennon, General Secretary Journeymen Tailors Int. Union; W. D. Mahone, President Street Railway Employees Int. Union; Geo. W. Perkins, President Cigar Makers Int. Union; Wm. H. Spencer, Secretary Structural Buildings Trade Alliance; D. L. Keefe, President Longshoremens Int. Union.

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P. S.—All of the above named pianos are made at one and the same factory, Chicago, Ill. Other names are used for the purpose of deceiving the purchaser. SHUN THEM.

DISTRICT COUNCIL, NO. 4—SECOND DISTRICT.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNIONS, I. B. E. W., GREETING:

You are hereby notified that the Third Annual Convention of D. C. No. 4, Second District, will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., beginning at ten o'clock a. m., Monday, January 27, 1908; at 36½ E. Washington St. All locals are earnestly requested to be represented. Each local, in good standing, is entitled to one delegate. The district, as now defined and maintained, is as follows: All of Illinois except Cook, Madison and St. Clair Counties and that part of Indiana north of and including Vincennes. Any local in the district not yet affiliated should look up Article 4, Sec. 6, of I. B. E. W. constitution and do their full duty, if they wish to continue their membership in the Brotherhood. The District Council, as the name implies, was formed for the purpose of bringing together more closely the locals, the majority of whose

members are employed by the same company or corporation, and thus concentrate our forces and make the concern of one local the concern of all that might done and with greater ease, when backed up both morally and financially by every local in the district, therefore we wish to call attention to the necessity of your local being represented at our next convention, to be held at Indianapolis, and in that way become better acquainted with the aims and object of the D. C., and help bring about the changes in our conditions most needed.

A duplicate credential must be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer at least one week prior to the convention.

F. R. McDONALD,
Sec'y-Treas.,
14 Cross St.,
Aurora, Ill.

W. D. MULINIX,
President,
301 S. Center St.,
Joliet, Ill.

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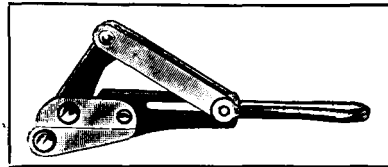
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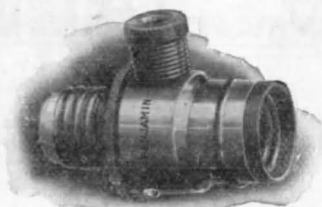


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